

Norway police slammed for slow response

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) —

When Anders Behring Breivik launched his assault on the youth campers of Utoya Island, he expected Norway's special forces to swoop down and stop him at any minute.

Instead, Delta Force police officers made the 25-mile (40-kilometer) journey by car — they have no helicopter — then had to be rescued by a civilian craft when their boat broke down as it tried to navigate



President Obama signs a condolence book in memory of the victims of Friday's explosion and shooting massacre in Norway, Tuesday, July 26, 2011, at the Norwegian embassy complex in Washington.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

a one-minute hop to the island.

It took police more than 90 minutes to reach the gunman, who by then had mortally wounded 68 people. Breivik immediately dropped his guns and surrendered, having exceeded his wildest murderous expectations.

As Oslo's police force sounds an increasingly defensive note, international experts said Tuesday that Norway's government and security forces must learn stark lessons from a massacre made worse by a lackadaisical approach to planning for terror. □

Running on Empty

Facing obstacles, GOP delays vote on plan for debt

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) speaks at a news conference on Capitol Hill about the nation's debt limit in Washington, July 26, 2011. Republican leaders Tuesday made increasingly frenzied pleas to their members to approve a plan to temporarily raise the nation's debt ceiling, but passage seemed in growing doubt.

J. STEINHAUER

ARL HULSE

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WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders said Tuesday night that they planned to delay a scheduled vote on their plan to raise the nation's debt ceiling as conservative lawmakers expressed skepticism and congressional budget officials said it did not deliver the promised savings.

The pushback on the bill led to even more uncertainty on Capitol Hill as the clock ticked closer to Aug. 2, when the Obama administration has warned that the nation risks defaulting on its bills. Inside and outside Washington, some analysts think the government actually has a little more time to act.

The scramble to come up with a plan that could be put to a vote, originally expected Wednesday, represents a test of Speaker John A. Boehner's ability to lead his restive caucus. The expected showdown over the legislation is the culmination of months of efforts by Tea Party-allied freshmen and fellow conservatives to demand a fundamentally smaller government in exchange for raising the federal borrowing limit.

Boehner rolled out a two-stage deficit reduction plan Monday that would allow the \$14.3 trillion federal debt limit to rise immediately by about \$1 trillion in exchange for \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts.

The plan tied a second increase early next year to the ability of a new bipar-

(Philip Scott Andrews/The New York Times)

tisan congressional committee to produce more reductions.

But in trying to coax members to vote for a plan that falls far short of their hopes, Boehner and party leaders met a barrage of criticism Tuesday that the cuts were not nearly deep enough.

Four Republican senators with Tea Party links wrote a letter to their House colleagues urging them to vote against the measure. The Club for Growth, which scores members on their fiscally conservative votes, came out against the plan, as did other conservative groups including the Heritage Foundation and a coalition of Tea Party groups.

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Facing obstacles, GOP delays vote on plan for debt

Continued from Front Page

The speaker's troubles piled up late Tuesday when the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said Boehner's plan would cut spending by \$850 billion during the next decade – about \$150 billion less than the \$1 trillion increase proposed for the debt ceiling. Republican leaders said they would probably rework the bill reflecting the decreased savings by only raising the debt limit by less than \$850 billion; the change would mean that the Obama administration would need to make another request for an increase in a matter of months, making the deal even less palatable to Democrats. Rep. Eric Cantor, the House majority leader, trying to spur his members, told fellow Republicans in a Tuesday-morning meeting to "stop grumbling and whining and to come together as conservatives and rally behind" Boehner's plan.

The scramble for votes came on a day when the phone lines of lawmakers jammed with calls and lawmakers' websites frequently shut down after President Barack Obama's plea Monday night for Americans to

administrative officer, said the calls spiked at midday when members' offices received about 40,000 phone calls – about double a normal hour's call volume.

"I have had phone calls from constituents all across

clined to vote for Boehner's plan. "It's not the most ideal circumstance that we all hope for," he said. "But it's the most doable plan that satisfies the most issues to our conference."

Some members said they had already decided the bill would not pass muster. "The burden of persuasion is pretty high," said Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., who does not support the bill.

The Democrats want a bill that would raise the limit through 2012.

Obama and the Democratic leadership oppose Boehner's bill, saying it is only a short-term plan that will lead to market uncertainty and instability.

Sen. Harry Reid, the majority leader, waiting to see how Boehner's measure fares, has not brought his own debt legislation to the floor. While there is no prospect that the Senate would pass the Boehner bill, the White House said in a two-sentence message to Congress on Tuesday that if Congress passed the measure, "the

president's senior advisers would recommend that he veto this bill."

Rep. Steny H. Hoyer, D-Md. and his party's whip, said that his side of the aisle had no plans to support the plan, and that it would receive "very few," if any, votes from Democrats.

Reid's proposal would raise the debt ceiling through 2012 and cut \$1.2 trillion from federal agency budgets and recurring programs like agriculture subsidies. Like some earlier Republican plans, the plan also counts about \$1 trillion in savings from winding down combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Speaker Boehner's plan is not a compromise," Reid said, after meeting with Senate Democrats. "It was written for the Tea Party and not the American people. Democrats will not vote for it. Democrats will not vote for it."

Democrats will not vote for it. It's dead on arrival in the Senate, if they get it out of the House." □



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) speaks at a news conference on Capitol Hill about the nation's debt limit in Washington, July 26, 2011.

(Philip Scott Andrews/The New York Times)

call members of Congress and push for a compromise.

Dan Weiser, a spokesman for the chamber's chief

the Third District suggesting we raise taxes," said Rep. Steve Womack, R-Ark. "But this economy is too fragile." Womack said he was in-

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Lawyer: Manic episode in castration death

JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Portuguese model was suffering from a "manic episode" on the night authorities say he castrated and killed a Portuguese TV personality in a hotel room, his lawyer said Tuesday, providing a peek into how he is likely to carry out a planned insanity defense. The attorney, David Touger, declined to elaborate on the psychiatric condition or history of his client, Renato Seabra, as he spoke following a brief, procedural court appearance. Touger is due next week to file papers giving at least a basic description of the mental illness that, Seabra will claim, so profoundly affected him that he didn't know what he was doing was wrong. Seabra, a 21-year-old former contestant on a Portuguese talent-search show, has pleaded not guilty to murder in Carlos Castro's Jan. 7 death. Castro's mutilated, bloodied body was found in a hotel room they were sharing on a trip that friends said the two took to see Broadway shows and spend New Year's Eve in Times Square. The 65-year-old Castro was a TV personality and writer. Friends have said the two were a couple, but Seabra's mother has disputed that. □

Feds: Taliban supporter charged in drug sting

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal authorities said Tuesday they have found fresh evidence of growing cooperation between the drug trade and terrorists in a probe of two major overseas networks of narcotics dealers. The investigations resulted in the arrests of four men, including one who agreed to support the Taliban in Afghanistan with revenues from the drug trade, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said at a news conference. "Today's indictments provide fresh evidence of what many of us have been seeing for some time: the growing nexus between drug trafficking and terrorism, a nexus that threatens to become a clear and present danger to our national security," he said. "As crime goes global, the long arm of the law has to get even longer." To infiltrate the networks, the Drug Enforcement Administration utilized DEA sources posing as links to the Taliban and Lebanon's Hezbollah. Derek Maltz, special agent in charge of the DEA Special Operations Division, said the probe was a response to the growing realization that drug dealers were funding terrorism. He estimated that 50 percent of foreign terrorist organizations are involved in some aspect of the drug trade. He said income from drugs helps the terrorist groups buy weapons and explosives and pay off corrupt

governments, besides funding expenses such as travel. In one case, authorities announced the arrest of Taza Gul Alizai. An indictment accused him of sell-

Romania and Greece, DEA sources arranged to import hundreds of kilograms of high-quality heroin into the United States, telling their targets that they would use

ment in Malaysia last month to buy 48 American-made Stinger missiles, 5,000 AK-47 assault rifles and 1,000 handguns, among other weapons, for \$9.5 million.



Taza Gul Alizai, left, is being escorted Tuesday morning, July 26, 2011, at an undisclosed airport north of New York City. He was one of several men arrested by the Drug Enforcement Administration in New York in a drug terrorism sting overseas. An indictment accuses Taza Gul of selling assault rifles and heroin to a DEA confidential source with the intention of using the proceeds to fund the Taliban. (AP Photo/U.S. Authorities)

ing about 5 kilograms of heroin in May 2008 to a DEA source who posed two years later as a Taliban representative when Taza Gul agreed to arrange the sale of six AK-47 assault rifles and an additional 10 kilograms of heroin. The indictment said a co-conspirator of Taza Gul told the DEA source that heroin laboratories in Afghanistan are under Taliban protection. In the other prosecution that involved meetings in Turkey,

proceeds of the drug deals to buy weapons for Hezbollah, an indictment said. Two of three men charged in that probe agreed since February to buy military-grade weapons from the DEA sources so that they could be provided to the Iran-backed Hezbollah Shiite Muslim militia, the indictment said, citing meetings in Romania, Cyprus, Malaysia and elsewhere. Authorities said the men signed a written agree-

Those arrested in the probe on conspiracy and weapons charges were identified as Siavosh Henareh, Bachar Wehbe and Cetin Aksu. Henareh and Aksu were arrested in Bucharest, Romania, on Monday. According to Interpol notices Monday, Wehbe and Taza Gul were detained in the Maldives; both were transferred to DEA custody and brought to New York. At initial court appearances, both were detained without bail. □

Study looks at NYC fast-food menu calorie counts

KAREN ZRAICK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Like any fitness program, it works only if you pay attention to it.

A new study on New York City's effort to encourage healthy eating by posting calorie counts on menus shows that it worked for about one in six customers — or those who paid heed to them. Those who ignored the numbers or didn't see them ordered whatever they wanted, regardless of how fattening it was. City health officials who conducted the study said that's good news. On any given visit, customers who looked at the counts generally ordered about 100 fewer calories than those who didn't, according to

the results of the study published Tuesday in the British medical journal BMJ.

In 2008, New York became the first municipality in the U.S. to require chain restaurants to post the counts, and other places including California and Seattle followed suit. Starting next year, a federal law will require all chains with 20 or more locations to print calorie counts on menus. British fast-food restaurants are set to introduce a similar but voluntary initiative. The study was the first large-scale look at the initiative's success at several different chains. Lynn D. Silver, assistant commissioner of the city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and one of the study's authors, said it showed modest



A McDonald's Cheeseburger Happy Meal with the new apple slices option is shown on Tuesday, July 26, 2011, in Pittsburgh. McDonald's Corp. says it is adding apple slices to every Happy Meal, part of the chain's larger push to paint itself as a healthy place to eat.

(AP Photo/Keth Srakocic)

for Disease Control and Prevention.

The study looked at lunch-time purchases at 11 fast-food chains around New York in 2007, before the city law was passed, and then again in 2009. Researchers asked customers for their receipts and spoke to them about their orders. There was no significant change overall. But customers did order fewer calories, on average, at three major chains: McDonald's, Au Bon Pain and KFC. The study notes that those restaurants also introduced healthier choices around the same time the law was passed.

Meanwhile, the sandwich shop Subway showed a big increase in the average calorie count of a lunch order, which the authors linked to the popularity of its "\$5 foot-long" deal, introduced nationally in 2008.

The study found that more than 20 percent of customers at Subway and Au Bon Pain paid attention to the calorie counts, an increase from the overall average of 15 percent. Women were more likely to use them when deciding what to order, as were people in wealthier neighborhoods. Young people were the least likely to use them. □

gains in getting people to order lower-calorie meals. But she said the law also led restaurants to widen their offerings of healthier food, such as salads.

"Calorie labeling alone

won't cure the obesity epidemic but it is one part of trying to address it," Silver said.

About a third of adults in the U.S. are obese, according to the federal Centers

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Oregon Congressman Wu to resign after sex accusations

K. Q. SEELYE

M. D. SHEAR

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SEATTLE — Under intense pressure, Rep. David Wu, D-Ore., said Tuesday that he would resign from Congress and would challenge accusations that he had initiated an unwanted sexual encounter with a young woman who said later that his advances were aggressive and unwanted.

Wu, a seven-term member of Congress, has not publicly discussed the nature of the accusations against him. The Oregonian newspaper in Portland has reported that on Thanksgiving, while he was visiting a high school friend and political donor in Orange County, Calif., Wu, who is 56, went outside with the friend's daughter and some sort of sexual incident occurred. The daughter was 18 at the time.

A few months later, the newspaper said, the young woman called Wu's office and left a distraught message on the main phone line, saying Wu had forced himself on her. The newspaper wrote about the message on Friday night, setting in motion Wu's resignation Tuesday. After the newspaper report, his aides confronted him about the accusations. He acknowledged a sexual encounter, according to The Oregonian, but insisted it had been consensual. The newspaper has not published the young woman's name, and neither she nor her family has come forward publicly.

Wu's resignation marks the second time in two months that a Democratic congressman has been forced from office over accusations of sexual improprieties. Rep. Anthony D. Weiner of

New York resigned on June 16 after acknowledging that he had sent sexually explicit online messages to at least six women.

Pressure mounted Monday for Wu to resign; he said he would not seek re-election but would remain in office until the end of his term.



People pass by the closed doors of the office of Rep. David Wu (D-Ore.) on Capitol Hill in Washington on July 26, 2011. Wu said Tuesday that he will resign from Congress after allegations that he had had a sexual encounter with a young woman.

(Philip Scott Andrews/The New York Times)

Then, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and the House minority leader, called for an ethics investigation into the accusations.

And on Tuesday, Oregon's two senators, Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Democrats, called on Wu to step down immediately. In a statement, they described the accusations against him as "both jarring and exceptionally serious" and said Wu had lost his ability to serve his constituents effectively. The state Democratic Party was preparing its own call for his immediate resignation when Wu issued a statement saying he would step down as soon as the debt ceiling fight in Washington was over.

This leaves his exact departure date uncertain. Lawmakers in Washington are racing against an Aug. 2

deadline to raise the nation's debt ceiling. Wu has been voting in Washington but has largely remained sequestered from the news media.

"The well-being of my children must come before anything else," he wrote in his statement. "With great

sadness, I therefore intend to resign effective upon the resolution of the debt ceiling crisis. This is the right decision for my family, the institution of the House, and my colleagues."

Wu has been under fire for months as he fought earlier accusations of a mental breakdown after a divorce last year. In February, several staff members quit after describing erratic behavior and unwanted emails that included a picture of Wu dressed in a tiger outfit. It was not clear whether the mass resignations were related to the sexual accusation.

The congressman weathered the initial political storm by apologizing for his behavior and saying he had been going through a difficult period. But the latest reports proved more difficult to navigate.

"It has been the greatest privilege of my life to be a United States congressman," he wrote. "Rare is the nation in which an immigrant child can become a national political figure. I thank God and my parents for the privilege of being an American."

Wu's imminent departure brings an end to a tumultuous year for him and the constituents of his Portland

district.

In the wake of the staff departures, Wu acknowledged seeking treatment for mental health issues and admitted taking prescription medication. He also admitted sending inappropriate emails to his staff members.

"Last October was not a good month," Wu said on "Good Morning America" in February. □

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Local food proves to be a tough sell in Appalachia

JANE BLACK

© 2011 New York Times

MEADOWVIEW, Va. — When Steven Hopp envisioned his restaurant, the Harvest Table, he drew up a list of strict rules. Local farmers would provide the produce, meats and cheeses. Lemons would be banned: After all, why ship some-

thing that is mostly water when homegrown lemon thyme might suffice? Coffee and tea would be allowed because they are dried, but they should be organic, fair trade or both. That philosophy grew out of his own experience. From 2005 to 2006, Hopp and his wife, the author Barbara

Kingsolver, decided to see if their family could rely on the food they grew here in the hills of southwest Virginia. Their 2007 best-seller, "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life," a memoir about their experiment, helped introduce Americans to the locavore creed. With the Harvest

woods, and get all the wine from Virginia. But in the heart of Appalachia, where there isn't a critical mass of suppliers or customers for whom the term "locavore" rolls naturally off the tongue, the restaurant remains something of a curiosity. Hopp is, once again, a pioneer. The 50-seat Harvest Table has not yet turned a profit. Over the past several years, it has struggled to build a fan base among the area's predominantly blue-collar residents for whom the average annual income is \$15,750, and many of whom view local and organic food as out of reach. "I've heard it's expensive, so I've never been in," said Bobbie Cornett, the site manager at the town medical clinic next door. "Well, that's not true, I got a can of pop there once." Initially, Hopp, who teaches environmental studies at the nearby Emory & Henry College, wanted to build a year-round farmers' market. But he soon decided that a restaurant was more viable. He renovated two century-old buildings, using salvaged wood and old bricks, then painted them pastel blue and rose with

Berkeley, Calif. There is an open kitchen, and colorful paintings of barns adorn the walls. On one visit, the special was "salad pizza," a white pie with a spicy mix of local greens, dressed with red wine vinaigrette. A middle-aged couple greeted Philip Newton, one of the restaurant's chefs, with a handshake, then sat down to lamb sausage burritos. One enthusiastic server wielding a charming drawl successfully sold nearly every table on desserts like warm berry cobbler. When summer is over, chefs will face up to the short Appalachian growing season by relying on house-canned, frozen or dried ingredients. (Among the benefits of being outside a metropolitan area are cheap rents and ample storage space.) While the chefs have worked hard to woo local farmers, finding the ingredients they need remains a challenge. For at least a century, tobacco was the area's main crop. When federal subsidies for that crop ended in 2005, many older farmers put away their ploughs. Those who have switched to produce have often been happier to sell a single crop



A garden that was started in the past year to grow food for the Harvest Table restaurant, owned by Steven Hopp, near the eatery in Meadowview, Va. In the hills of southwest Virginia, Hopp has been testing whether a restaurant in an old railroad town can survive using only local ingredients from farmers and ranchers.

(Shawn Poynter/The New York Times)



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Table, Hopp is trying to determine whether those same principles can sustain a business beyond the big city.

"My motive is not that I love the restaurant business or that I want to create a fine-dining restaurant with local ingredients," he said. "We want to design a business that maximizes the benefit to the most local people that it possibly can."

Hopp's goal was to create an egalitarian restaurant, one that is built by and caters to the community. Four years later, his dream is still a work in progress. The restaurant has breathed some life into the central square of this deflated old railroad town in dire need of economic development. It employs 18 people, significant in a community with a population of about 2,200. Its chefs buy from dozens of local farms, pay foragers for ramps and morels that proliferate in the Appalachian



Members of Weaver Union church, from Bristol, Tenn., from left: Eula McCoy, Mary Alice Melvin, Catherine Phillips, Ray Phillips, and Charlotte McConnell eat at Harvest Table restaurant, owned by Steven Hopp, in Meadowview, Va.

(Shawn Poynter/The New York Times)

neat, white trim. The Harvest Table and the Meadowview Farmers' Guild, the general store next door that sells local grits, microbrews and a collection of Kingsolver's books, opened in October 2007. The warm, friendly restaurant has a low-key vibe that would help make it an instant hit in a progressive, urban enclave like Brooklyn or

to one big buyer than to grow the small quantities of a variety of fruits and vegetables that a small restaurant needs. "There aren't a lot of farmers keyed into growing vegetables, which, actually, works to our advantage," said Mark Scott, an owner of Eden Farms, which sells heirloom vegetables, including tomatoes, to the restaurant. □

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In Miami market, a housing mania is pushing sales

DAVID STREITFELD

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MIAMI — South Florida is the default capital of the country. Here in Miami-Dade County, 1 in 5 households with mortgages is in foreclosure.

Nearby Broward and Palm Beach counties are not far behind. Nearly 200,000 South Florida families are stuck in the mire of default. And yet much of Miami is gripped by a housing mania as the oversupply of distressed homes dries up and foreigners and investors swoon. Only a few years after it seemed there were so many unwanted high-rise condominiums that the only solution was to tear some of them down, there are plans to build even more.

Home sales in the metropolitan area during the first half of the year rose 16 percent from 2010 for the best spring since 2007, according to the research firm DataQuick, far outpacing the negligible growth in the rest of the country.

Two-thirds of the sales were all cash.

Prices, after a brutal drop, are firming up or even increasing. During the first six

months of the year, there were 439 sales for at least \$2 million, up 13 percent from last year.

"People thought it would take at least a decade to get back to this point," said Peter Zalewski, founder of Condo Vultures, a real estate consultant.

Gil Dezer, who co-developed the beachfront Trump Towers, saw 90 percent of the buyers in the project's uncompleted second and third buildings abandon their deposits in the crash.

Last week, Dezer achieved a milestone: He sold enough condos to pay off the \$265 million mortgage on the property. Only about 12 percent of the apartments remain.

"The Brazilians walk in, they don't even negotiate," said Dezer, who said he would announce two new projects by the end of the year. "It's a no-brainer for them."

For more than four years, the fate of the housing market here and across the country has been closely tied to the tremendous wave of foreclosures. In some communities, more than half of all

home sales were bank repossessions. These cheap,

often half-destroyed properties undermined neigh-

borhoods and accelerated the market's descent, prompting even more owners to walk away.

But now, as new foreclosures slow and lenders are forced to let old cases languish for legal reasons, some of the regions that were worst off when foreclosures were at flood tide are much improved with the process stalled.

"People should thank the foreclosure mills," said Zalewski, referring to the law firms that brought about freezes in foreclosures when they were caught using illegal methods. "They gave the whole market a reprieve."

As a result, the balance between supply and demand in South Florida is shifting.

In late 2008, as the financial crisis was peaking, there were 108,000 properties for sale and hardly any buyers. The region became a symbol of excess. □



Paramount Bay, a 47-story condo building that was supposed to open in 2009 but ended up foreclosed. The Miami metropolitan area has had an improvement in the housing market as new foreclosures have slowed, showing a 16 percent rise in home sales.

(John Van Beekum/The New York Times)

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Ciudad Juarez: 17 killed in prison fight in northern Mexico



Inmate family members ram the state prison gates demanding information in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Tuesday July 26, 2011. A deadly clash between two rival gangs erupted Monday night at the state prison when a group of prisoners entered the preventive detention area and opened fire on inmates there, said Chihuahua state prosecutors spokesman Carlos Gonzalez.

(AP Photo/Raymundo Ruiz)

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) —

At least 17 inmates were killed in a prison fight in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, authorities said Tuesday. A deadly clash between two rival gangs erupted Monday night at the state prison when a group of inmates entered the preventive detention area and opened fire on inmates there, said Chihuahua state prosecutors spokesman

Carlos Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said the inmates had firearms and that police are investigating who smuggled the weapons into the prison. Manuel del Castillo, a Ciudad Juarez spokesman, initially said the inmates had taken the firearms from prison guards but Gonzalez said that isn't clear. He said a woman who was being tried for homicide and kidnapping was

among those killed and that four other prisoners were badly wounded. Soldiers and federal and state police officers took control of the prison early Tuesday, Gonzalez said. Mexican cartels are fighting for control of Ciudad Juarez, which sits across the border from El Paso, Texas. More than 6,000 people have been killed in drug-related violence in Juarez over the past two years. □

Hired youth gets three years for killings in Mexico

R. C. ARCHIBOLD

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MEXICO CITY — A 15-year-old whom authorities had accused of beheading four men as a hired killer for a drug cartel, highlighting the pull of young people into organized crime, was convicted Tuesday and sentenced to three years in prison.

The arrest in December of the teenager, Edgar Jimenez Lugo, who went by the nickname "El Ponchis," a reference to his build when younger, shocked the nation because of the gruesome nature of the crimes and his youth. He was 14 when the murders occurred.

Televised images after his arrest showed a wary looking, curly-haired boy in a black sweatshirt dwarfed by heavily armed soldiers presenting him to reporters, as is the custom here for major arrests. He began to kill when he was 11, he said in a light voice. He said that he earned \$200 a week and that he did it because he was drugged and under threat. Authorities said he confessed to killing the men, whose bodies were found in August hanging from a bridge in Cuernavaca, a weekend getaway near Mexico City.

A judge heard testimony

from 42 witnesses behind closed doors before convicting Lugo of the murders and drug and weapons charges and imposing the sentence, the maximum allowed under the law for juveniles in Morelos state, where the case was heard. Born in San Diego but raised in Mexico, Lugo was arrested as he and his sister, whom the police also accused of participating in organized crime, boarded a plane for Tijuana, on the California border.

The case underscored the lure of organized crime for juveniles.

They have long served as lookouts and couriers for drug gangs, but authorities have said they are increasingly serving as enforcers and hired killers.

Of the more than 35,000 people killed in organized crime-related violence since President Felipe Calderon began a crack-down in 2006, an estimated 5 percent have been minors. The Mexico attorney general's office, in an October report, said the number of minors charged with drug-related crimes had increased from 482 in 2006 to 810 in 2009, a period in which thousands of federal police officers and soldiers swarmed several states to reduce crime.

The nickname "El Ponchis" was as a slangy way to refer to his pudgy build as a younger child, family members have said. He lived a turbulent life of poverty and distant or absent parents and guardians, according to news reports, and fell into the drug underworld in Jiutepec, a small town near Cuernavaca. □

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A group of women flout Israeli law for a swim

ETHAN BRONNER

© 2011 New York Times

TEL AVIV, Israel — Skittish at first, then wide-eyed with delight, the women and girls entered the sea, smiling, splashing and then joining hands, getting knocked over by the waves, throwing back their heads and ultimately laughing with joy.

fact, was part of the point: to protest what they and their hosts consider unjust laws. In the grinding rut of Israeli-Palestinian relations — no negotiations, mutual recriminations, growing distance and dehumanization — the illicit trip was a rare event that joined the simplest of pleasures with the

"But it is one more activity to oppose the occupation. One day in the future, people will ask, like they did of the Germans, 'Did you know?' And I will be able to say, 'I knew. And I acted.'" Such visits began a year ago as the idea of one Israeli, and have blossomed into a small, determined

her to the beach.

The resulting trip, described in an article she wrote for the weekend magazine of the daily newspaper Haaretz, prompted other Israeli women to invite her to speak, and led to the creation of a group they call "We Will Not Obey." It also led a right-wing organization to report her to the police, who summoned her for questioning.

In a newspaper advertisement, the group of women declared: "We cannot assent to the legality of the Law of Entry into Israel, which allows every Israeli and every Jew to move freely in all regions between the Mediterranean and the

Jordan River while depriving Palestinians of this same right. They are not permitted free movement within the occupied territories nor are they allowed into the towns and cities across the green line, where their families, their nation, and their traditions are deeply rooted.

"They and we, all ordinary citizens, took this step with a clear and resolute mind. In this way we were privileged to experience one of the most beautiful and exciting days of our lives, to meet and befriend our brave Palestinian neighbors, and together with them, to be free women, if only for one day." □



Palestinian women and girls from the West Bank swim with a group of Israeli women who smuggled them into Israel for a day at the beach, in Tel Aviv Israel, July 22, 2011. The group of Israeli women, who have done this several times before, risked criminal prosecution to bring the Palestinian women to the beach, breaking what they consider an unjust law.

(Rina Castelnovo/The New York Times)

Most had never seen the sea before.

The women were Palestinians from the southern part of the West Bank, which is landlocked, and Israel does not allow them in. They risked criminal prosecution, along with the dozen Israeli women who took them to the beach. And that, in

most complex of politics. It showed why coexistence here is hard, but also why there are, on both sides, people who refuse to give up on it.

"What we are doing here will not change the situation," said Hanna Rubinstein, who traveled to Tel Aviv from Haifa to take part

movement of civil disobedience. Ilana Hammerman, a writer, translator and editor, had been spending time in the West Bank learning Arabic when a girl there told her she was desperate to get out, even for a day. Hammerman, 66, a widow and the mother of a grown son, decided to smuggle

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Billionaires' backing feeds India's massive rise

JIM YARDLEY

VIKAS BAJAJ

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Hari Kumar contributed reporting from Mundra and Nikhila Gill from New Delhi. **MUNDRA, India** – On a recent wind-whipped morning, a steel-hulled behemoth arrived at a desolate stretch of India's western coast groaning with enough coal to power a city of 1 million people for more than two weeks.

The ship, the Vanshi, was carrying coal from Indonesia, a two-week trip across the Indian Ocean. India has its own abundant reserves of coal, which raises a question: Why did India need to go so far to get something it already had? For Gautam Adani, the power mogul, the answer was simple: The easiest and most profitable way to meet India's rising demand for electricity is to avoid the hassles, divisive political confrontations and practical inefficiencies of India. In the spirit of the workaround ethos typical of India's private sector, Adani is working around the subcontinent itself. He owns the Indonesian coal mine, the Korean-made cargo ship (named for his niece Vanshi), the Indian power plant and, most important, the private Mundra port. He owns coal mines and a major port in Australia, and has built his own private railroad spur in India. His busi-



Engineers check data inputs in a control room at the power plant, which is still under construction, at Mundra port, in Mundra, India. In an effort to get more energy to the people of India, Gautam Adani, an energy mogul, decide to work around the infrastructure of Mundra and fully fund a new power plant using his own finances and resources.

(Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)

ness plan is to do as much as possible without relying on the creaky infrastructure of the Indian state.

"He is able to do so well partly because he is very entrepreneurial and has found the right opportunity," said Eswar Prasad, an economic adviser to India's prime minister. "But it's a symptom of a dysfunctional state. He is able to deliver something more effectively than the state." Today, India is increasingly turning to the private sector to deliver the electricity needed to maintain rapid economic growth into the

future. India's economy is growing at more than 8 percent annually, but is badly constrained by an inadequate power supply after years in which the government dominated the power sector and failed to keep up with growing demand. The rise of Adani attests to a broader shift, as the private sector is playing a greater role in areas once controlled by the state such as telecommunications, ports, airports, banks and infrastructure. At a global level, this contrasts sharply with China, where huge state-owned

enterprises dominate strategic industries and lead the country's global expansion. Adani recently had to outbid the Chinese for his Australian port. Within India, though, the success of private tycoons has created a paradox: India's moguls are essential to the country's success and admired for their ability to get results. Yet their staggering wealth is made possible in part by their coziness with powerful politicians who help arrange environmental clearances, land use rights and other thorny issues. That raises accusa-

tions of crony capitalism. India in the 21st century is now often compared to the United States during the Gilded Age of the late 19th century, when robber barons dominated the U.S. economy. The country has 55 billionaires whose aggregate wealth of \$250 billion is equivalent to almost a sixth of the nation's annual economic output. "No question, there is an oligarchy developing that has an enormous amount of influence," said Arvind Subramanian, an economic adviser to the government of India. "That is a matter of great concern. But in India, these are also the guys who are performing. In some cases, they may be gaming the system, but they are also performing despite how bad the system is." Adani is now India's sixth-richest person, with a fortune valued at \$10 billion. He was an import-export trader during the 1980s when the government tightly controlled trade and industry through high tariffs and an abstruse licensing regime. During the 1990s, after India embarked on economic reforms, Adani expanded his trading business and befriended influential politicians, including the powerful and controversial chief minister of his home state of Gujarat.

Continued on Page 11

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India's Rise

Continued from Page 10

Adani entered the power business partly because of criticism that traders were just "intermediaries" who did not own anything or contribute to society. He decided to start acquiring things, only to find that India's new business climate would mean shopping around the world.

GOING VERTICAL

It was a singularly Indian dilemma: tigers versus electricity. In 2009, India's power and coal ministries granted Adani initial approval to build a power plant in the state of Maharashtra, a deal that included the right to develop a coal mine. But the coal concession was in a forest near a wildlife reserve for endangered Indian tigers. Protests mounted until India's Environment Ministry blocked the mine project in a victory for wildlife preservation. The dispute underscored how often important national priorities – environmentalism versus expanding electricity – collide in India. India has the fifth-largest coal reserves in the world and depends on coal-fired power stations for electricity, yet much of India's coal lies beneath forests in areas populated by tribal groups. Rare is the project without protests, controversy or violence. Adani's canceled mining lease was only part of his problem. He had plans to

become India's biggest private power company by 2020, yet he could not get domestic coal. Two other applications for domestic mining rights were snagged in red tape after India's environment minister declared broad areas

India mining applications remained tangled in a ministerial turf war.

"He learned that it is difficult to get such clearances," said Devendra Amin, a spokesman for the Adani Group. "The challenges are political, as well as logisti-



Ram Surat Yadav cleans coal off the train tracks in the coal yard at Mundra port, in Mundra, India.

(Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)

of the country to be "no-go" regions for mining. Adani's advantage was Mundra. He had spent a decade assembling tracts of land into a special economic zone and had transformed Mundra into India's biggest private port. Now the port would become his India gateway for a global expansion. He acquired mining rights in Indonesia. He bought two cargo ships (with two more on order) and began prospecting in Australia, where he bought a mine and, this year, the Abbot Point port. In short order, he became an overseas coal baron even as his

cal." Indeed, the logistics of transporting coal in India were another problem. Indian Railways is a massive government bureaucracy with some of the world's highest freight charges, even though India's freight trains travel slowly and carry small loads. Adani found it cheaper, more efficient and sometimes faster to ship coal 4,000 miles by sea than 1,000 miles by train. (Indonesia's coal is also of a higher quality than India's.) In the space of a few years, Adani had created a vertically integrated global supply chain reminiscent of when Henry

Ford once owned Brazilian rubber plantations to supply his car factories in the United States. Outside of India, this model is seldom seen these days, as big companies often specialize in areas where they have expertise and outsource other activities. "It's quite atypical in the global context," said Rajiv Lall, chief executive of the

the current environment." In the past two years, India has become Indonesia's largest customer for coal, as other corporations in India also have purchased mining rights to ensure a reliable coal supply for their private power projects. The Adani Group is currently constructing or planning seven power stations, with the largest at Mundra.



Women gather all their belongings into bundles in preparation to move back to their inland homes from the Rand Bander fishing settlement, near Mundra port, in Mundra, India, May 19, 2011.

(Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)

Infrastructure Development and Finance Corp., a company based in Mumbai. But in India, he said, "it's probably the fastest, most likely to succeed approach in

When the port needed a 40-mile rail connection to the Indian Railways network, Adani decided the fastest solution was to simply build his own line. □

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A revenge plot so intricate, officials admit being fooled

DAN BLIEFSKY

© 2011 New York Times

NEW YORK — Soon after Seemona Sumasar started dating Jerry Ramrattan, she had an inkling that something might be wrong. He said he was a police detective, but never seemed

brazen criminal. She was charged with carrying out a series of armed robberies, based on what the police said was a wealth of evidence, including credible witness statements and proof that her car was the getaway vehicle.

tan remained free on bail in the rape case, Sumasar, who had no prior criminal record, was facing up to 25 years in prison. Despondent, Sumasar passed her days behind bars scouring the indictments against her for clues

film." Sumasar, 36, is bubbly and petite. She never finished college but used her analytical skills to land six-figure jobs on Wall Street. Yet she acknowledged she can be too trusting. After her arrest, she lost her restaurant franchise and her house in Far Rockaway went into foreclosure. She was separated from her daughter, Chiara, 12. Sumasar is now planning lawsuits against the Police Departments in New York City and in Nassau County, the location of one of her purported robberies, over her arrest. Neither agency would comment. Ramrattan never worked as a law enforcement officer, prosecutors say, but he often presented himself as a private investigator. Ramrattan, who is being held at Rikers Island, appeared this month in a Queens court, where a judge refused a request for bail and set his trial date on the rape and conspiracy charges for Oct. 3. He has pleaded not guilty to both. He and his supporters are

about her and her associates will come out." Some legal experts say Sumasar's story shows how the American justice system can be easily manipulated, with the principle of innocent until proven guilty turned on its head. Prosecutors said that the web of false evidence presented by Ramrattan was so detailed they had little reason to doubt it. But Anthony Grandinette, Sumasar's former lawyer, said law enforcement was negligent. "Why would a tiny woman with no criminal record, who worked 10 years on Wall Street, randomly hold up people at gunpoint at night dressed as a police-woman?" Grandinette asked. Sumasar, the daughter of an Indian taxi company owner from the South American nation of Guyana, was the embodiment of immigrant success. When Ramrattan, dressed in a suit and tie, first entered her restaurant in 2006 and introduced himself as a police detective, Sumasar, a



Seemona Sumasar, who spent seven months in jail, in the neighborhood of her former business, a bakery that is now a deli, in New York. Sumasar was accused of robberies that the authorities said were invented in a revenge plot by an ex-boyfriend, Jerry Ramrattan.

(Nicole Bengiveno/The New York Times)

to go to work. He seemed obsessed with "CSI," "Law & Order" and other television police dramas. About a year after he moved into her house in Queens, their relationship soured. One day, he cornered her, taped her mouth and raped her, she said. Ramrattan was arrested.

But he soon took his revenge, the authorities said. Drawing on his knowledge of police procedure, gleaned from his time as an informer for law enforcement, he accomplished what prosecutors in New York called one of the most elaborate framing plots that they had ever seen.

One night, Sumasar was pulled over by the police. Before she could speak, detectives slapped handcuffs on her. "You know you did it," she said one later shouted at her. "Just admit it." Sumasar, a former Morgan Stanley analyst who was running a restaurant, said she had no idea what that meant. Yet suddenly, she was being treated like a

In her first extensive interview about her ordeal, she recalled sitting in jail, consumed by one thought: "Jerry is behind this." But when she insisted to the authorities that he had set her up, they belittled her claims. Now, though, they concede that Samasar was right — an astonishing turn of events that has transformed her case into one of the most bizarre in the city's recent history. They released her from jail last December after seven months, acknowledging that the entire case against her had been concocted by Ramrattan, officials said. "We prosecute tens of thousands of cases each year, but in the collective memory, no one has ever seen anything like this before," said Richard A. Brown, the Queens district attorney. "Few people have the capacity to pull off a master plot of this magnitude to exact revenge," Brown said. Ramrattan framed Samasar because she would not drop the rape charge, prosecutors said. And so even as Ramrat-



Jerry Ramrattan in Queens Criminal Court, in New York. Ramrattan is set to go on trial in October on charges of rape and conspiracy against Seemona Sumasar, who spent seven months in jail, accused of robberies that authorities said were invented in a revenge plot by Ramrattan.

(Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

that could help prove her innocence, even as news of lurid crimes that she had not committed were splashed in newspapers. "From the beginning, I said he made it up," Sumasar said. "I never thought my life would become a cop

now voicing their own theory of the case: Sumasar framed him. "My son is innocent, he was set up," said Shirley Ramrattan, Jerry Ramrattan's mother. Ramrattan's lawyer, Frank Kelly, said, "Everything

single mother, recalled being impressed. The two began dating, and Ramrattan eventually moved into Sumasar's house. At first, he seemed attentive, but she grew suspicious of him. He lied constantly, she said. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Rancho La Ponderosa recognizes two special guests



Papaya, Paradera -- A congenial ceremony took place recently at Rancho LA Ponderosa, in which owners Luis 'Lucho' Claro and Ramon Herrera bestowed the ultimate equestrian honor upon two repeat guests, Susan Kathleen Pryde and Rory Cassidy. The two have been coming to the ranch for many years, riding and enjoying Aruba's beauty from horse-trail perspectives. Luis and Ramon, honored Susan and Rory as Distinguished "Caballista" of Aruba, a title which immediately qualified them as Rancho La Ponderosa Crew Members.



Continued on Page 16

Bucuti & Tara Beach resorts earns Fodor's choice 2011 distinction from Fodor's Travel



EAGLE BEACH – Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts has been recognized by Fodor's, the leading name in travel information, as a 2011 Fodor's Choice selection. This distinction designates Bucuti as a leader in its field for service, quality, and value in 2011. The editors and experts of Fodor's have been selecting only the top fifteen percent of their listed properties and activities as Fodor's Choice award recipients since 1988. Each year, Fodor's writers experience, examine and evaluate thousands of hotels, restaurants and attractions in their travels across the globe. While every business included in a Fodor's guide is deemed worth a traveler's time, only those offering a truly remarkable experience are given the Fodor's Choice designation. Bucuti has long been recognized by travelers worldwide as a remarkable resort with unsurpassed service, achieving a number of awards

and accolades from TripAdvisor over the years including Top Ten Most Romantic Resorts in the World, top ten placement in the Top 25 Beaches in the World for Eagle Beach, and most recently the Certificate of Excellence.

In addition to its strong standing among TripAdvisor users, Bucuti is also a Condé Nast Editor's Pick and a recipient of the Five Star Diamond Award from the American Acad-

emy of Hospitality Sciences (AAHS). For more information about Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts, please visit: www.bucuti.com. About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts: Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts is Aruba's premier boutique resort for couples. The award winning, owner managed resort caters to adults only and has been named one of the world's most romantic resorts by TripAdvisor as well as honored as a recipient of the

Certificate of Excellence. Located on the white-powder sands of Eagle Beach, designated as one of the "Dream Beaches of the World," Bucuti offers 104 guestrooms, suites and penthouse suites; a fresh-water infinity pool; and the Intermezzo Spa, among other amenities. Bucuti is also recognized as a Five Star Diamond Resort by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences. The resort, which is certified Green Globe 21, ISO 14001-2008 and ISO 9001, is a leader in sustainable tourism throughout the world and has been recognized by notable organizations such as the Caribbean Hotel Association, American Express and the International Hotel and Restaurant Association for its environmentally responsible hotel operations. Bucuti is actively involved in a variety of environmental initiatives on the island including monthly resort-sponsored beach clean-ups, the Turtugaruba sea turtle protection group and Donkey Sanctuary Aruba.

The resort is also TAG Approved® as a gay friendly hotel. For more information, visit www.bucuti.com, become a fan on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @ Bucuti. □



Aimee Cote and Andres Vera are wed



Palm Beach -- A lovely sunset wedding was celebrated just recently for Aimee Cote and Andres Vera on the beach, at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. It was the couple's first time on the island, and it served as the perfect setting for a multi-national gathering of their families hailing from Ciudad Bolivar in Venezuela and from Massachusetts USA. The lovebirds who presently reside in the USA were surrounded by

24 loving family members and friends, who witnessed the exchange of wedding vows and blessings, sealed with a kiss, officiated by a local reverend. The weekend festivities included the beach ceremony, a cocktail reception and an elegant dinner banquet under the tropical sky on the pool deck of the resort. □



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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is



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Palm Beach -- Brant Blair, Grand Aruba, walked over as a guest of the Occidental to Cool Casino, at the Riu



BRIDGE RESULTS ALOHA BRIDGE CLUB ARUBA

Thursday, July 21, 2011 A total of 11 pairs joined the bridge session of this morning at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club Resort.

The results 50% and higher are as follows:

1) Nelly Aal / Gerry Meenhorst	63.75 %2)
Willy Flanegin / Maritza van Romondt	61.88 %3)
Stascha Hornix / Henk Berghuizen	54.38 %4)
Marleen van Baarlen / Jaenette Schoemaker	52.08 %5)
Corrie Veldman / Addy Eilers	51.56 %6)
Els Lacle / George Manning	50.63 %7)
Ghislaine Mendes / Carola Pinxter	50.00 %

Friday, July 22nd 2011 A total of 7 pairs joined evening the bridge session at the Frank Conway Room of the Casa del Mar Beach Resort.

The results 50% and higher are as follows:

1) Addy Eilers / Willem Jacobusse	57.50 %2)
Joke Henriquez / Willy Flanegin	57.29 %3)
Sheila Lampe / Edith Henriquez	52.50 %

Aloha Bridge Club Aruba meets twice a week: on Thursday mornings at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club Resort, starting at 9.00 am and on Friday evenings at the Frank Conway Room of Casa del Mar, starting at 7.30 pm. Signing up closes ten minutes before starting time. Fee for guest players \$ 6.00 or Afl. 10.00 per person. The club can also be of assistance in finding single players a bridge partner. Please call Addy Eilers, tel. 5824953. □

Palace and won a \$5,000 jackpot.

A few days later he again sauntered over to the neighboring property and claimed an even bigger win, a \$5,628 jackpot.

Cool Casino had just recently celebrated its 4th anniversary with a flurry of activities and give-aways.


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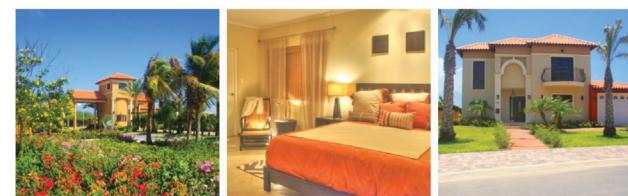
He then won the contest of the "Gran Orkestra Sinfonica" from Frankfurt where he encountered himself with Violin fanatic musicians from all over the world.

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Rancho La Ponderosa Recognizes Two Special Guests



Continued from Page 13

Ramon explains that the love for horses and espe-

cially those at La Ponderosa is shared by Susan and Roy, who visit their favorite ranch each time they are on Aruba.



Lucho who is one of the island's most respected horsemen reports his Paso Fino horses return the love, and turn out their smoothest gaits in honor of the repeat guests.

The ranch, famous for forging personal relationships with clients, which reach beyond the duration of the day-tour, developed a friendship with Susan and Roy, in appreciation of their many visits. With more than 30 years of experience, Rancho La Ponderosa remains a top choice among visitors and local residents,



and as the place to go for outstanding horseback riding experiences.

The ranch which received an award of excellence by Princess Cruises as Tour of the Season for 2009/2010, recently also obtained that coveted title for 2010/2011. The award designed to recognize excellence among local tour operators serving Princess Cruises passengers

when on the island for a stop-over, was based on high ratings and positive passenger comments, in addition to the tour being of excellent value to cruise ship passengers.

Pictured here receiving the Distinguished "Caballista" of Aruba award, riders Susan & Roy, flanked by Lucho, Ramon and the rest of the crew. □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Police: Freestyle Olympic skier kills self in Utah



In this Feb. 25, 2010, file photo, Jeret Peterson of the USA celebrates his Olympic silver medal in the men's freestyle aerials final at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Olympic silver medalist Jeret "Speedy" Peterson was found dead in a remote canyon in Utah in what police are calling a suicide. Peterson, a freestyle skier who patented the so-called "Hurricane" and took second place at the Vancouver Games with it, called the emergency dispatcher before shooting himself, police said. The 29-year-old had been cited for drunken driving Friday in Hailey, Idaho and had pleaded not guilty. Officers found Peterson late Monday night between Salt Lake City and Park City in Lambs Canyon. Police said a suicide note was found near Peterson's car; they declined to reveal what it said.

He was one of the most colorful of athletes, and he wore his heart on his sleeve — never more so than on Feb. 26, 2010, when he walked off the mountain after taking second place — the silver medal — with tears streaming down his face.

Continued on next Page

LOCHE IN



Phelps loses 200 free again to teammate Lochte

U.S. Ryan Lochte competes on the way to winning the gold medal in the men's 200m Freestyle final at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Shanghai, China, Tuesday, July 26, 2011.

Associated Press
Page 19

U.S. beats rival Japan for softball World Cup title

JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —

The United States beat Japan 6-4 on Monday to win its fifth straight title in the World Cup of Softball.

Taylor Hoagland hit a two-run home run and Valerie Arioto and Megan Langenfeld had RBI singles for the home team.

American starting pitcher Jordan Taylor (1-0) retired the first eight batters she faced and did not give up a hit until the fifth inning.

"It feels amazing, just because nobody really knew who this group of girls was," said Taylor. "We were just kind of underground a little bit. It definitely felt good to come out and still show that USA softball is staying strong." In the latest clash between the sport's two powers, the U.S. avenged a loss to Japan in the championship game of the Canada Cup earlier this month. The Americans won the first three Olympic gold medals and have won the past seven world championships, but Japan holds the gold medal from the 2008 Olympics.

The teams have met in the



U.S. pitcher Jordan Taylor, holds the championship trophy after the U.S. defeated Japan in the championship game of the World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City, Monday, July 25, 2011. The U.S. won 6-4.

finals in five of the six World Cups, with the U.S. winning four times. Japan was without injured ace pitcher Yukiko Ueno, who had been a nemesis for the U.S. with wins including the 2008 gold medal game, the 2005 World Cup title game and a shutout in Canada

earlier this month.

Makiko Fujiwara (1-2) started in her place and walked four straight batters in the first before Brittany Schutte's sacrifice fly put the U.S. up 2-0. The U.S. was lucky in the third when Kaitlin Cochran appeared to be out at third base but the

triple was allowed to stand, and she scored on Arioto's single to right to make it 3-0.

Japan got within 3-1 on Rie Nagayoshi's RBI groundout in the fifth. Then Haruka Kageyama was given a single when her ground ball hit Mika Suzuki as she

ran down the third base line. Japan coach Reika Utsugi protested, and then returned to the home plate umpire to motion for her to look at a replay, to no avail.

Langenfeld had a pinch-hit single to bump the Americans' lead to 4-1 in the fifth and Japan replied with a run from Hoagland's throwing error in the sixth to make it 4-2.

Hoagland's two-run blast made it 6-2 in the bottom of the sixth. That proved crucial because Japan got two runs in the seventh when Michelle Moultrie dropped Eri Yamada's two-out flyball in the seventh. Two runs scored and Yamada reached third, but Misa Okubo popped up an attempted bunt to end the game. Much of the star power was missing in this World Cup, with no Olympic veterans on the U.S. roster as the sport won't be played on that stage until at least 2020 — if then. Several stars have retired since the 2008 games, and others decided to play pro ball instead of continuing on Team USA. □

Associated Press



In this Feb. 26, 2010 file photo, Jeret Peterson, of the United States, holds his silver medal during the medals ceremony for the men's freestyle skiing aericals at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.

FREESTYLE

Continued from Page 17

"I know that a lot of people go through a lot of things in their life, and I just want them to realize they can overcome anything," Peterson said that night. "There's light at the end of the tunnel and mine was

silver and I love it."

It was a poignant closing chapter to a career that, until then, had been filled with success on the smaller stages of his fringe sport but defined in the mainstream by his moment at the Turin Olympics where, after finishing seventh, he was sent home early after a minor

scuffle with a buddy in the street.

Over the next months and years, he began telling his story.

In Italy, he was still reeling from the suicide of a friend, who had shot himself in front of Peterson only months before.

Peterson also had problems with alcohol and depression and admitted he had his own thoughts of suicide, all stemming from a childhood in which he was sexually abused and lost his 5-year-old sister to a drunken driver.

"Today is a sad day in our sport," Bill Marolt, the CEO of the U.S. ski team, said in a statement Tuesday. "Jeret 'Speedy' Peterson was a great champion who will be missed and remembered as a positive, innovative force on not only his sport of freestyle aericals, but on the entire U.S. Freestyle Ski Team family and everyone he touched."

Peterson got his nickname because of the big helmet he wore, one that made him look like Speed Racer of cartoon fame.

But quickly, he became better known for the "Hurricane"— a triple-twisting, double-flipping trick off the snowy ramp that was more difficult than anything anyone else would try.

It was high-risk, high-reward, and Peterson always insisted he'd have it no other way. It was a sight to behold when he landed it and the judges rewarded it. Helped by the huge difficulty marks for the jump, he still holds the two-jump scoring record of 268.70, set at Deer Valley in January 2007.

He had seven wins on the World Cup circuit, was the 2005 World Cup champion and a three-time American champion.

But the stats and the medals were only a fraction of the story.

Born with the heart of a gambler, he took that passion to Las Vegas and won \$550,000 playing blackjack one night. But within years, he had given some of it away and lost even more in the tanking real estate market.

Trying to decide whether he wanted to stay in the sport after Turin, he took time off and started working in the construction business — a place, he said, where he could see the effort of a hard day's work without having to walk into the video room the next day and break it down on the TV screen. But skiing was his passion, and he re-committed leading up to Vancouver. And what a payoff. He came in second that night, but hardly felt like a runner-up.

"I do it because I want to be the person I know I can be," he said. "I've really changed things around in the last 3 1/2 years. □

Associated Press



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Phelps loses 200 free again _ to Lochte

ANDREW DAMPF**AP Sports Writer**

SHANGHAI (AP) — Ryan Lochte overtook Michael Phelps on the final turn of the 200-meter freestyle to win one of the most highly awaited races of the world championships Tuesday, reminding everyone that he's a threat to replace his fellow American as the world's top swimmer.

Lochte touched in 1 minute, 44.44 seconds, with Phelps taking the silver in 1:44.79 while defending champion Paul Biedermann of Germany — who handed Phelps a stinging defeat in this event at the last worlds in Rome two years ago — settled for bronze in 1:44.88. "I can't complain," Phelps said. I'm bummed I didn't win, but you know at the same time, with what we've done over the last six to eight months, I'm over a second faster than I was last year. ... So I'm headed in the right direction."

Lochte also beat Phelps in the 200 individual medley and 200 backstroke at last year's U.S. championships, then won six golds to Phelps' five at the Pan Pacific Championships in 2010 — prompting Phelps' coach Bob Bowman to acknowledge that Lochte was the best swimmer last year. Phelps led at the 50 and 100 marks before Lochte, who was swimming in the next lane over, surged in front.

"I knew Michael wanted to go out just to clean water

so I knew I had to be in striking distance and just work what I'm good at — those underwaters on each turn," Lochte said. "It's a big confidence boost. Hopefully this win tonight will help me carry on through my other races this week."

After the race, Lochte hardly celebrated, then Phelps shook his hand, signaling a friendly rivalry.

"He's the only person I'll even say anything to in the ready room," Phelps said. "We can joke around. He can hear my headphones with having them on my head, so we were both singing along to the music. We're super laid-back, super relaxed. We have fun. We love to race each other. ... We bring the best out of each other."

Park Tae-hwan of South Korea, who won the 400 free on the opening night of the eight-day meet Sunday, was fourth. Already energized by Lochte's win, the near capacity crowd at the Oriental Sports Center upped the noise by a few decibels when local favorite Zhao Jing of China won the next race, the women's 100 backstroke.

There was another American gold in the women's 100 breaststroke, with Rebecca Soni leading from start to finish in 1:05.05 to defend her title from two years ago. She beat Olympic champion Leisel Jones of Australia by a massive 1.2 seconds, while Ji Lip-



U.S. Ryan Lochte, right, and his compatriot Michael Phelps look at the scoreboard after their men's 200m Freestyle final at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Shanghai, China, Tuesday, July 26, 2011. Lochte won the gold medal and Phelps took the silver.

Associated Press

ing of China took bronze in 1:06.52.

Soni had been tapped by some to break teammate Jessica Hardy's world record of 1:04.45, but Soni swam slower than the 1:04.91 she posted in the semifinals. While a whopping 43 world records were set at the last worlds, no marks at all have been set in a 50-meter Olympic-sized pool since high-tech bodysuits were outlawed at the start of last year.

In the men's 100 backstroke, Camille Lacourt and Jeremy Stravius of France finished in a rare dead heat for gold, clocking 52.76 before celebrating together over a lane rope. The

bronze went to Ryosuke Irie of Japan in 52.98.

Also, Lotte Friis of Denmark won the women's 1,500 free — a non-Olympic event — in 15:49.59, with world record holder Kate Ziegler of the United States taking the silver and Li Xuanxu of China the bronze.

In 2009, Biedermann beat Phelps by more than a second in the 200 free, taking down the American's world record in the process.

Biedermann himself acknowledged after that race that his high-tech bodysuit was partly responsible for his win and Phelps' coach Bob Bowman threatened to keep his star swimmer out of the water until the polyure-

thane suits were banned.

This is the first major international meet since the return to textile suits, and Lochte's winning time was far off Biedermann's world record of 1:42.00.

"In '09, I just did my thing. For the moment now it's more difficult for me," Biedermann said. "The suits helped. No matter what we are back in jammers now and that's all that counts." Phelps and Lochte, meanwhile, will face each other again in the 200 IM later in the meet.

Zhao won her race in 59.05 to the tune of banging drums from the red-clad Chinese team sitting in the stands. □

AL Roundup

Kipnis hit lifts Indians over Angels

CLEVELAND (AP) — Cleveland's Jason Kipnis delivered his first career hit with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth inning to give the Indians a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Angels in the American



Los Angeles Angels catcher Jeff Mathis catches the throw to force Cleveland Indians' Orlando Cabrera out at the plate in the ninth inning of a baseball game Monday, July 25, 2011, in Cleveland. One batter later, Jason Kipnis drove in the winning run with his first major league hit for a 3-2.

Associated Press

SPORTS BRIEFS

NFL confirms 5th London game

LONDON (AP) — With the lockout over, the NFL will return to London for a fifth straight year.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will play the Chicago Bears at Wembley Stadium on Oct. 23 in the fifth regular-season game in the British capital.

The game had been under threat because of negotiations over a new labor agreement between the league and its locked-out players.

The two sides announced a 10-year labor deal Monday to end the dispute.

The Bucs will be in London for the second time in three years, having lost to the New England Patriots at Wembley in 2009. The Bears beat the Dallas Cowboys in a 1986 preseason game at the old Wembley Stadium.

Tickets to go on sale Sept. 1. □

Pele named ambassador

SAO PAULO (AP) — Pele has been named as the honorary ambassador for the 2014 World Cup to be held in Brazil.

The football great accepted the invitation from Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff.

Pele's role will be rallying Brazilians around delayed efforts at getting ready for the tournament. He will also be promoting Brazil's preparations abroad at football events.

After meeting with the president in Brasilia on Tuesday, Pele says he knows many Brazilians are dismayed by the slow pace of preparations.

Despite sharply criticizing delays in building stadiums and other infrastructure, Pele says it is time for Brazil to come together and complete the task.

He asked all Brazilians to support the work so the nation pulls off an event it can be proud of. □

Beckham, Rooney to meet

NEW YORK (AP) — David Beckham plans to be an ambassador for England at the 2012 London Olympics, preferably as a player for his nation's football team. Manchester United's Wayne Rooney is the one scoring goals — and creating controversy — in England these days.

The Manchester United stars of past and present will meet Wednesday in the Major League Soccer All-Star game.

The 36-year-old Beckham, now with the Los Angeles Galaxy and an MLS All-Star, hopes to compete for his home country at next year's Olympics in what could be one of the final chapters of his career. □

League on Monday.

Kipnis hit a pitch from Hisanori Takahashi through the gap between first and second base, giving the Indians their 11th home win in their last at-bat this season, and breaking a four-game losing streak.

Bobby Abreu's two-run homer had put the Angels ahead 2-1 in the eighth, but Cleveland reliever Tony Sipp (5-2) pitched a scoreless ninth to enable the late rally.

Rangers 20, Twins 6

In Arlington, Texas, the hosts piled on a league-best 27 hits to rout Minnesota.

Ian Kinsler homered and drove in four runs; Mike Napoli and Nelson Cruz had four hits as all but one of the Rangers starters had at least two.

Michael Young also went deep and had three RBIs for Texas, which had 18 runs by the end of the fifth inning.

Things were so one-sided that outfielder Michael Cuddyer pitched the eighth inning for the Twins. He gave up a double, a single and a walk to load the bases but got outs on a fly ball and a pop-up to complete a scoreless inning.

He was the first Twins position player to pitch in a game for 21 years.

Royals 3, Red Sox 1, 14 in-

nings

In Boston, Eric Hosmer doubled leading off the 14th inning and scored when a bunt bounced over the head of an onrushing fielder, giving Kansas City victory over Boston.

Mike Aviles' bunt went over the head of first baseman Adrian Gonzalez.

Royals reliever Louis Coleman (1-2) went two innings and twice pitched out of jams to take the win.

The Red Sox threatened to score five times in the last six innings, but the Royals made their best chance count. Hosmer doubled off Randy Williams (0-1).

White Sox 6, Tigers 3

In Chicago, the hosts downed Detroit to move within 3-1/2 games of top spot in the AL Central.

Mark Buehrle (8-5) pitched six innings and allowed a runner on base in each but the Tigers managed to only get two unearned runs against him.

Carlos Quentin hit a bases-loaded double for the White Sox while Paul Konerko hit his 23rd homer of the season and A.J. Pierzynski also went long. Detroit rookie Duane Below (0-1) surrendered four runs in 4 2-3 innings.

Tigers manager Jim Leyland was ejected before the start of the sixth. There

was no immediate word on why he was thrown out.

Yankees 10, Mariners 3

In New York, the home team handed hapless Seattle its 16th straight loss.

After a two-hour rain delay, the game was barely underway when Mark Teixeira began the procession with a two-run homer to left field.

In the third, Derek Jeter hit his first homer since connecting for hit No. 3,000 on July 9. He also tripled in the eighth.

Athletics 7, Rays 5

In Oakland, the hosts came from three runs down to defeat Tampa Bay.

Conor Jackson hit a two-run double in the seventh inning, Cliff Pennington homered and David DeJesus added two hits, including an RBI single to start the A's comeback.

Brian Fuentes (2-8), the second of five A's pitchers, worked two-thirds of an inning for his first win since April.

Rays reliever J.P. Howell (2-2) took the loss.

In other AL games it was Cleveland 3, L.A. Angels 2; N.Y. Yankees 10, Seattle 3; Kansas City 3, Boston 1, 14 innings; Texas 20, Minnesota 6; Chicago White Sox 6, Detroit 3; and Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 5. □



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NL Roundup

Pods finally beat Bucs, 5-4

ATLANTA (AP)—Pittsburgh's James McDonald struck out a career-high nine batters in 5 1-3 scoreless innings as the Pirates beat the Atlanta Braves 3-1 on Monday to stay equal top of the National League Central division.

Pittsburgh is tied with St. Louis for first place in the division, half a game ahead of Milwaukee, which was off Monday.

McDonald (6-4) had the most strikeouts by a Pirates pitcher in almost two years. He did not walk a batter and ended each of the first five innings with strikeouts. McDonald has not allowed a run in two straight wins.

Padres 5, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, San Diego beat Philadelphia for the first time in more than a year, ending a run of 10 straight defeats by the Phillies.

San Diego starting pitcher Aaron Harang (9-2) out-pitched Philadelphia's Cliff

Lee, giving up four runs in six innings.

Lee (9-7) lasted only four innings, his second-shortest outing of the season.

He allowed five runs and made a pickoff blunder that allowed San Diego's Chris Denorfia to steal home. His soft toss to first gave Denorfia the opening he needed to bolt from third and give the Padres a 3-1 lead.

Heath Bell pitched the ninth for his 29th save.

Mets 4, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Carlos Beltran's sacrifice fly started a four-run rally in the seventh inning that vaulted New York past Cincinnati.

The Mets rallied against Reds pitcher Mike Leake (8-6) and two relievers.

New York starter R.A. Dickey (5-8) allowed two runs in 6 2-3 innings and was backed up by David Wright's run-scoring single and RBI doubles from both Daniel Murphy and Jason Bay.

Cardinals 10, Astros 5

In St. Louis, catcher Yadier Molina fell only a triple shy of hitting the cycle for the second time in three games as St. Louis downed Houston.

After a single, double and a homer, Molina missed his only shot for the cycle when he took a called third strike in the eighth. His homer came in the fourth off J.A. Happ (4-12).

Cardinals starter Kyle McClellan (7-6) ended an eight-game victory drought, allowing only one run and no walks.

Colby Rasmus homered for the second straight game and had three RBIs for St. Louis.

Trailing 8-1, Houston's Carlos Lee made it interesting with his 16th career grand slam in the eighth, cutting the gap to three runs before St. Louis answered with two.

Dodgers 8, Rockies 5

In Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit a two-run homer to help



Pittsburgh Pirates catcher Michael McKenry catches a pop fly off the bat of Atlanta Braves Nate McLouth with bases loaded against the Atlanta Braves during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 25, 2011, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Los Angeles defeat Colorado.

Aaron Miles and recently acquired Juan Rivera had run-scoring doubles to help starting pitcher Rubby De La Rosa (4-4) end a winless stretch of six straight starts. He allowed one run over six innings, striking out five. De La Rosa has an ERA of 3.49

in his nine big league starts. Rockies starter Juan Nicasio (4-3) gave up five run in 5 2-3 innings for the loss.

In other NL games it was San Diego 5, Philadelphia 4; N.Y. Mets 4, Cincinnati 2; Pittsburgh 3, Atlanta 1; St. Louis 10, Houston 5; and L.A. Dodgers 8, Colorado 5. □

CAS delays Contador doping case until November

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) — Alberto Contador's Tour de France doping case was postponed for a second time on Tuesday, and will now probably be heard in November.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said the scheduled start next Monday was delayed at the request of the World Anti-Doping Agency with "unanimous agreement" of all parties.

"The second round of written submissions will allow the parties to complete their evidence and argu-

ments relating to some specific scientific issues," CAS said in a statement.

New dates for the hearing "probably in November" will be fixed in the coming days, CAS said.

Contador's spokesman suggested the delay was because the case against the star Spanish rider was weakening.

"This delay has been requested by the WADA. The only thing that it means is that its case is not strong enough," Jacinto Vidarte told The Associated Press by telephone.

"Contador wants to resolve

this as soon as possible. But if the WADA has requested that it be delayed, we have to accept it," Vidarte said. The three-time Tour champion was due in sport's highest court for a three-day hearing to consider his positive test for clenbuterol, a banned anabolic agent, when winning the 2010 race.

The case had previously been scheduled to take place in June.

The International Cycling Union and WADA are appealing a Spanish cycling federation decision to clear Contador in February. □



Three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador of Spain leaves the anti doping control after the 19th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 86 miles starting in Modane Valfrejus and finishing on Alpe d'Huez, Alps region, France, Friday July 22, 2011.

Associated Press

Head Throb

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

The French words for headache; mal de tête, has always seemed to make the affliction sound much less ominous. Thankfully most headaches are not serious even if very painful. However, head pain, in every country, is the most common human affliction and, even in this age of extreme advances in medical technology there is still far more that we do not know about headaches than that which we do know.

In many eastern medical practices, especially Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) headaches have been treated with a much higher success rate than they have in the Western world. Furthermore, TCM has a much different approach to understanding headaches, health, and the person as a whole.

Western, allopathic medicine classifies headaches by their specific symptoms and measurable biological effects. Individuals are usually classified as having a certain type of headache and treatment is based on this classification. There are eleven main types of headache classifications in western medicine. The first four are the most common and serious types of headaches and include head pain caused from vascular (brain arteries changing shape), muscle contraction (tightness), traction, and inflammation.

The other types of

headaches include environmental or behavioral headaches caused by factors such as caffeine withdrawal, eyestrain, poor posture, and hunger. Trauma headaches are headaches that result from an injury often times, which is minor. Sensitivity headaches are a reaction to an allergy, food, chemical or environmental substance. Finally, sinus headaches, dental headaches, and exertion headaches are self explanatory.

Pharmaceuticals, which have dangerous side effects, are by far the most widely used treatment for headaches in western medicine, but allopathic Doctors do recognize the role played with food in headaches. Western doctors recognize sugar, MSG (Monosodium Glutamate, a flavor enhancer used in many foods), and food allergies as primary prevention factors in treating headaches. However, this is not nearly considered to be as important a factor as it is in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Unfortunately, much more common treatment of headaches is through the use of pharmaceuticals. These pharmaceuticals are man made chemicals constructed with the intention of correcting a chemical imbalance. Western Medicine usually sees these imbalances as coming from the liver, the endocrine system, and occasionally the nervous system. This treatment also includes the reg-

ulation of hormones, mostly in women and is tied to the menstruation cycle. Many women find that they get headaches the day before menstrual flow begins or the day that flow actually begins an effect of estrogen withdrawal.

Traditional Chinese medicine sees a headache essentially as a disharmony within the person. Thus our treatment is to rebalance the disharmony, which in turn will help not only the headache but make the individual healthier as a whole. In our grass-roots clinic we take on an approach that identifies the source of the head pain. We know that everything in existence is related and that means within your body. Slow moving colons produce purification chemicals with an extremely unpleasant smell that stimulates mucus production in the sinuses, chest, and produce headaches. Colon hydrotherapy or the washing of the large intestines is an easy medical procedure that quickly removes and corrects headaches from this source.

Acupuncture is a useful, inexpensive and effective form of treatment for people who suffer from chronic or migraine headaches. Studies have shown acupuncture to work better than conventional treatments alone and result in fewer headaches and no negative side effects. Also, it has been shown repeatedly that acupuncture de-

creased the severity and frequency of headaches in those who experienced severe headaches. Acupuncture treatment involves the insertion of extremely fine needles into the skin at precise points in the body. It has been shown to help with migraine nausea and pain.

Many of the sources of headache pain we have seen in our clinic include dental problems and the toxic heavy metals that leak from dental amalgams. Headaches and migraines are an often reported complaint of people who have amalgam fillings in their teeth. Dentists knowledgeable in biocompatible dentistry are very effective in improving the condition.

Herbal tradition has used the herbs like dandelion to treat head pain. Dandelion combined with herbs that also detoxify and support the liver are an even better combination. Eating foods right for your metabolic type and including a distressing exercise, getting enough sleep make up lifestyle support.

Get The Point! The longer the headache or migraine is left untreated the harder it is to stop. Using pharmaceutical drugs or most of the medications used for headaches have dangerous side effects and can cause rebound which is a serious worsening of your baseline headache. You probably already know that when you develop a



migraine what may help is being calm; staying in a dark and soothing room; and sleeping may also help. Rather than wait for your next headache or migraine, consider treatment and prevention by acupuncture, herbal treatments, and a personalized diet that have a five thousand year old track record. Call to make an appointment.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor having studied in Shanghai, China; a Clinical Nutritionist, a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals, the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information or questions contact: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, e-mail: viananatural@hotmail.com. Web Sight: www.viananaturalhealing.com Read us weekly: www.arubatoday.com

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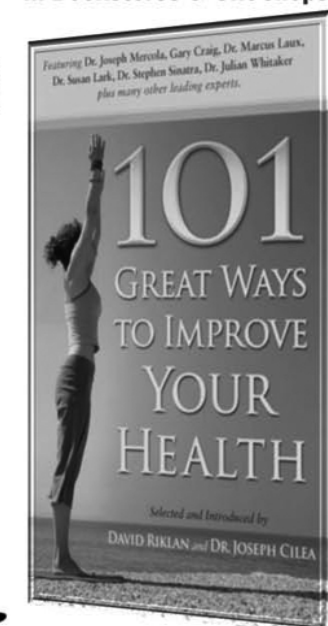
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Invisible wounds of war: There's an app for that?

PAULINE JELLINEK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When terrifying battlefield memories come rushing back to mind, in night sweats, flashbacks or a panic attack, some troops and veterans now find comfort by reaching for their smart phones. Using new-age technology to cope with age-old wounds of war, they tap into mobile phone applications, or “apps,” designed to help with post-traumatic stress and brain injuries.

“I’m not going to lie — when this came out, we sort of wanted to slam it,” a once skeptical Staff Sgt. Meg Krause said of her group of veteran friends.

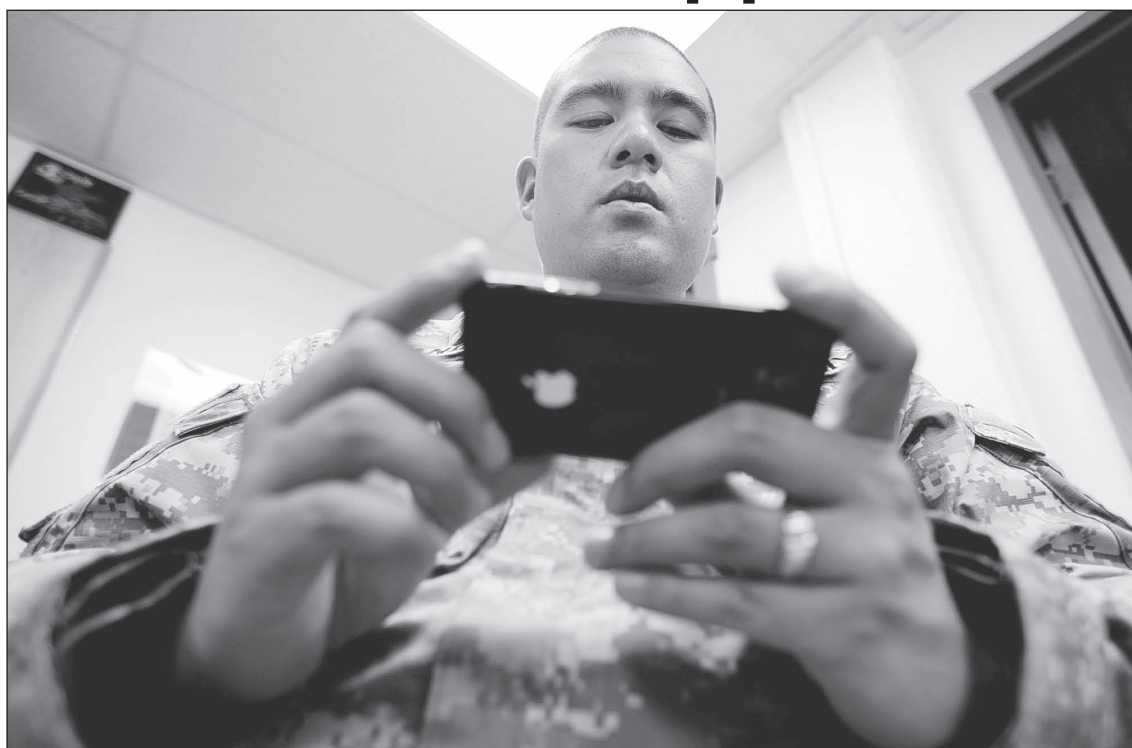
“But it surprised us and has been a phenomenal tool,” said the 29-year-old reservist and medic who has had counseling for PTSD.

A half dozen apps with names like “T2 MoodTracker,” “PTSD Coach” and “Breathe2Relax” have been developed by the Pentagon and Veterans Affairs Department, not to

diagnose illness or replace psychiatric counseling. Rather, the apps offer at-your-fingertips information about what the military calls “invisible wounds” of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — and techniques for managing the symptoms.

All but one were the work of the Pentagon, starting with MoodTracker, which lets users rate how they’re feeling — worthless, happy, lonely and so on — and keep a record of their ups and downs over time. The newest, released in May, was a joint Pentagon-VA effort — “PTSD Coach.” It helps self-assess symptoms, gives step-by-step instructions in muscle relaxation and breathing, helps users create a phone list of people to call when they need support and helps vets contact the National Suicide Prevention Hotline in an emergency.

“Someone who’s struggling ... all they have to do is pull out their smart phone or their iPhone and say ‘I can help myself,’” Krause said.



Sgt. Mark Miranda, a public affairs specialist stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state, demonstrates the use of a program for tablet computers and smart phones that is designed to help calm symptoms of post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury, Friday, July 22, 2011. Miranda said he does not suffer from PTSD himself, but after trying the app, he said he may suggest its use to other soldiers who he has deployed with.

Associated Press

Wal-Mart offers video streaming

MAE ANDERSON

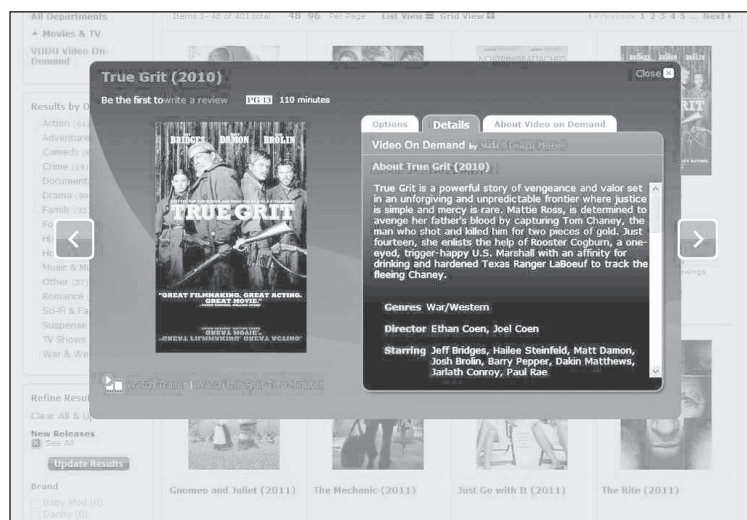
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Now playing: Movies at Walmart.com. The world’s largest retailer on Tuesday started streaming many movies the same day they come out on DVD, in a second bid for a share of popular movie rental and streaming website Netflix Inc.’s business and just two weeks after Netflix announced new price increases.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. bought video-streaming service Vudu.com 18 months ago and now offers 20,000 titles that can be viewed on almost any device with Internet access, from computers to televisions to Sony’s PlayStation3 and other Blu-Ray disc players.

Movies are available at Walmart.com to rent for \$1 to \$5.99 or to purchase for \$4.99 and up.

Wal-Mart is not offering subscriptions, making its service more similar to Apple Inc.’s iTunes, which charges \$3.99 to rent newly



In this screen shot provided by Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the film “True Grit” is shown as one of the titles available on the company’s new video-streaming service.

Associated Press

released movies and \$14.99 to buy a movie.

In addition to Netflix, another competitor streaming movies and TV shows by subscription is Hulu.com, which now offers a premium service for \$7.99 a month with more back-season shows and more movies.

Without a subscription, Hulu viewers can watch shows and movies free in

exchange for watching advertising. The movie offering fits with the Wal-Mart website’s strategy of offering a “seamless continuous shopping service,” said Steve Nave, senior vice president and general manager of Walmart.com. Wal-Mart’s announcement comes on the heels of Netflix saying it will raise rates and charge separately for streaming and rental DVDs. □

immensely important.”

There’s also an app for health care providers that includes definitions, causes and severity ratings for mild traumatic brain injury — or concussions — suffered by so many troops from roadside bombs and other explosions. Another for doctors treating PTSD is expected in the coming months. Officials hope the apps for troops, vets and their families will encourage more people to get professional help and be used by others to supplement professional therapy. Krause served twice in Iraq and has worked for the “Real Warriors” campaign, a separate defense program in which service members tell their personal stories to encourage other troops to go for counseling. Finding others to talk about using the apps is hard since the free downloads are anonymous. Preserving that privacy is a big selling point for a military population that hides its problems for fear of appearing weak or being passed over for promotions. “Engaging veterans on their own terms is especially crucial in the area of mental health,” said Dr. Sonja Batten, a clinical psychologist who works on national mental health policy for the VA. Providing services that

are safe, reliable and private is a priority for the VA, she said, where the number of vets getting mental health care has increased to 1.2 million from 900,000 in the past four years.

Last year alone, over 400,000 veterans who received mental health treatment had a diagnosis of PTSD, Batten said. Among troops still in the military, officials estimate 1 in 5 has suffered acute stress, anxiety, depression or other mental problems from a war zone deployment.

Some 2.3 million men and women have served tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan in the past decade. The apps are among the latest ideas by a government still struggling to prevent, treat and more fully understand the mental health problems that have ballooned over that time.

In a vast and unprecedented wartime effort that has struggled to keep up with troop needs, the government in recent years has increased mental health screening, hired more psychiatric staff, sent mental health survey teams directly to the battlefields, launched new research and started or bolstered myriad programs from suicide prevention to resilience training to family counseling. □

Amazon 2Q results beat Street

RACHEL METZ

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Amazon.com Inc.'s second-quarter profit fell as the leading online retailer continued to spend on expanding its business.

At the same time, higher merchandise sales lifted revenue 51 percent.

Both results, issued late Tuesday, easily beat analyst expectations, as did Amazon's third-quarter sales outlook. Amazon shares rose 6 percent in after-hours trading.

For the quarter that ended June 30, revenue rose to \$9.91 billion from \$6.57 billion last year. The company's electronics and general merchandise revenue rose 69 percent to \$5.89 billion, while sales of books, CDs, DVDs and other media rose 27 percent to \$3.66 billion.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos said in a statement that "low prices, expanding selection and innovation" drove the company's second-quarter growth.

This growth means Amazon must keep investing in operations expansions and upgrades.

In order to support the proliferation of its online retail business, so far this year, it has announced it is build-



In this Nov. 11, 2010 photo, Leacroft Green places a package to the correct shipping area at an Amazon.com fulfillment center, in Goodyear, Ariz. Amazon.com Inc., reports quarterly financial results Tuesday, July 26, 2011, after the market close.

Associated Press

ing 15 new centers to fill orders. In a conference call with reporters, Tom Szkutak, Amazon's chief financial officer, said he expects that figure to rise.

Overall, operating expenses rose 54 percent to \$9.71 billion.

For the quarter that ended June 30, Seattle-based Amazon said late Tuesday it earned \$191 million, or 41

cents per share, compared with \$207 million, or 45 cents per share, in the year-ago quarter.

Analysts polled by FactSet were expecting a profit of 34 cents per share on \$9.37 billion in revenue.

For the current quarter, Amazon forecast revenue of \$10.3 billion to \$11.1 billion, the top of which is well above the \$10.40 billion an-

alysts have been expecting.

As usual, Amazon did not give specific details about sales of its Kindle e-reader, but Bezos did say the \$139 Kindle 3G with Special Offers — a version of the Kindle released during the quarter that is subsidized with ads — is now its top-selling Kindle device.

Speculation is swirling that Amazon may be working on a tablet device to rival Apple Inc.'s popular iPad, but Szkutak would not divulge any details. Many e-readers like the Kindle use screens with "electronic ink" technology that makes them best suited for reading, especially in bright light.

Tablets such as the iPad have backlit screens and are intended for functions that go beyond reading text, including surfing the Web, video chatting and watching movies.

"We have a longstanding practice of not talking about what we might or might not do in the future, so you'll have to stay tuned," Szkutak said.

Amazon shares rose \$12.84, or 6 percent, to \$227.02 in extended trading. The stock finished regular trading up 69 cents at \$214.18. □

U.S. to require biggest traders report activity

DANIEL WAGNER

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Large traders will be required to register with the government and make available more information about their trades under a rule adopted by federal regulators Tuesday.

The Securities and Exchange Commission agreed unanimously on the rule, which takes effect in 60 days.

Large traders will have an additional two months to register with the SEC after the rule takes effect.

The rule is part of the SEC's response to the May 2010 "flash crash," when the Dow plunged more than 600 points in five minutes before recovering most of the losses.

Regulators say tracking large trades will make it easier to understand unusual activity in the market.

The SEC already has approved "circuit breakers" that would pause trading if a stock's price changed too quickly, and it has clarified when trades involving temporarily distorted prices can be canceled. □

Nissan announces \$8 billion China expansion

JOE McDONALD

AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) —

Nissan announced an \$8 billion expansion plan for China on Tuesday as part of a global strategy to focus on faster-growing emerging markets and reduce reliance on the United States.

Nissan's plan with its local partner, Dongfeng Group, calls for opening new factories to meet surging demand and introducing 30 new models by 2015. They include a China-produced electric car to be sold under the low-priced Venucia brand that Nissan Motor Co. is creating for the Chinese market.

"China is key to our total growth," said Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn at a news

conference. Global automakers are looking to China, the biggest auto market by number of vehicles sold, to drive revenue amid weak demand elsewhere. Auto sales in China jumped 32 percent last year to 18 million vehicles, defying global economic malaise. Nissan hopes to nearly double its annual sales in China to 2.3 million vehicles by 2015, up from 1.3 million last year, Ghosn said. The Japanese automaker was a latecomer to the Chinese market but has succeeded with a wide range of offerings, from Infiniti luxury models to the cheaper Venucia brand, said Masataka Kunugimoto, auto analyst at Nomura Securities Co.

"Nissan has scored great

success in China," he said. "Its key strategy in recent years has focused on strengthening its lineup and presence in China."

Ghosn said Nissan's China expansion is part of an effort to expand in faster-growing markets. It includes new factories and other initiatives in Russia, Brazil, India and Southeast Asia.

"We used to be extremely dependent on one market — it was the U.S. market," said Ghosn, who also heads Nissan's alliance partner Renault SA of France.

The global strategy is "moving Nissan from too much dependence on one region to depending on different pillars and different regions," he said.

Nissan's ambitions reflect



Nissan Motor Co. CEO Carlos Ghosn, center, pauses during a news conference in Beijing Tuesday, July 26, 2011.

Associated Press

a broader trend among global automakers, which are creating models for China or incorporating Chinese tastes into global designs. General Motors Co. also has launched its own low-cost China brand, Baojun.

Ghosn said Nissan wants to expand its China market share from 6.2 percent today to 10 percent by 2015. He said its market share has eroded because its factories cannot meet demand despite operating at full capacity. □

Gay nuptials unveil financial boon for N.Y. services

DEEPTI HAJELA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A lot of people are happy to see same-sex marriage legal in New York: lawyers, marriage counselors, insurance agents.

The effect of New York becoming the sixth state to allow gay marriage is expected to ripple beyond

the couples tying the knot to the professionals who offer marriage-related services, with some saying it could bring in a significant new stream of people looking to use what they offer.

"I've been practicing since 1988 ... I've never seen the kind of an influx of potential new clients like this," said Lois Liberman, a matrimo-

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Clorox rejects Icahn's 2nd bid

OAKLAND, California (AP) — The Clorox Co. has rejected billionaire investor Carl Icahn's second bid for the company, dismissing it as "inadequate."

Icahn bid \$10.2 billion for the consumer products company earlier this month. Clorox rejected that offer as too low. Icahn raised his offer to \$10.7 billion a few days later.

Clorox said Tuesday that its board has unanimously dismissed the latest \$80 per share offer. The company says it undervalues the company and is not credible.

Icahn is Clorox's biggest shareholder and he has criticized the company's performance, suggested it accept his bid or shop for competitive offers.

Clorox says it remains committed to its current business strategy and says its own plans are the best way to create value for its shareholders. □

Dunkin' IPO priced at \$19 a share

CANTON, Massachusetts (AP) — The parent company of Dunkin' Donuts and ice cream chain Baskin-Robbins is pricing its initial public offering at \$19 a share, above the forecast price range.

Dunkin' Brands Group Inc. says it is offering roughly 22.3 million shares at \$19 each. The stock will trade starting Wednesday on the Nasdaq market under the ticker symbol DNKN.

The company had earlier projected the IPO price to range from \$16 to \$18 a share.

At \$19 a share, the stock sale will raise about \$423 million before expenses. Underwriters also have an option to buy another 3.3 million shares.

Dunkin' Brands, which is based in Canton, plans to use the IPO funds to pay down debt, but could also have money left over for expansion plans. □

Talks fall through to buy Borders

NEW YORK (AP) — Bookstore chain Books-A-Million Inc. says its last-minute talks to buy the leases and assets of 30 Borders bookstores out of bankruptcy have fallen through.

Borders Group Inc., which filed for bankruptcy protection in February, received court approval last week to liquidate its 399 stores. The chain said at the time it was talking to Books-A-Million about buying 30 store leases and inventory.

But Books-A-Million said Tuesday those talks were unsuccessful.

A group led by liquidation firms Hilco Merchant Resources and Gordon Brothers Group are now holding going-out-of-business stores at all Borders stores.

Birmingham, Alabama-based Books-A-Million operates 231 stores in 23 states and the District of Columbia. Borders is based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. □



In this photo provided by the Office of the Mayor, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg officiates the marriage ceremony of Jonathan Mintz, left, and John Feinblatt, Sunday, July 24, 2011 at Gracie Mansion in New York. Hundreds of gay couples dressed in formal suits and striped trousers, gowns and T-shirts recited vows in emotion-choked voices and triumphantly hoisted their long-awaited marriage certificates on Sunday as New York became the sixth and largest state to recognize same-sex weddings.

Associated Press

nial lawyer in New York City. Census figures put the number of same-sex couples in New York at more than 65,000. Hundreds of couples got married starting Sunday, in ceremonies all over the state.

A May 2011 report by the Independent Democratic Conference on the economic impact of recognizing marriage between same-sex partners in New York state would create \$311 million in increased revenue and economic activity during the next three years.

Married same-sex couples would also be less likely to need or be eligible for assistance since their combined incomes and assets would exceed program thresholds. Therefore, the state could expect a savings of more than \$80 million in Supplemental Security Income and other assistance programs.

While the legalization of same-sex marriage was the end point of a yearslong struggle, just being able to get a marriage license is only the beginning, said Susan Heitler, a clinical psychologist in Denver who works on marriage education.

"It's not as simple as starting Sunday, you can go to City Hall and live happily ever after," she said. "Marriage is both an emotional partnership and a business partnership."

That creates opportunities for professionals like marriage counselors and lawyers, she said.

Chris Mongeau gets that. Among the details he has to take care of before his October wedding to Stuart Vincent, his partner of three years, is taking care of legal documents like wills and health care proxies.

"It's not just a simple matter of getting a license and going through a ceremony. It's building a life," the 52-year-old psychologist said.

Dr. Mikki Meyer, a therapist with offices in New York City and Ulster County, said therapists and counselors could see an uptick in busi-

ness as couples newly eligible for marriage seek out premarital counseling. She said there could also be those who need help coming to grips with family relationships and other issues that may not have come up before a wedding was legally possible — such as relatives who may have accepted a gay couple living together but now balk at the idea of a legal ceremony, for example.

"Just because it's legal doesn't mean everybody is going to accept it," she said. "People will want to know, 'How can I best handle this?'"

Gay couples could also have other legal and financial issues to consider as they plan to change their marital status, Liberman said. Same-sex spouses could be added to insurance policies. □

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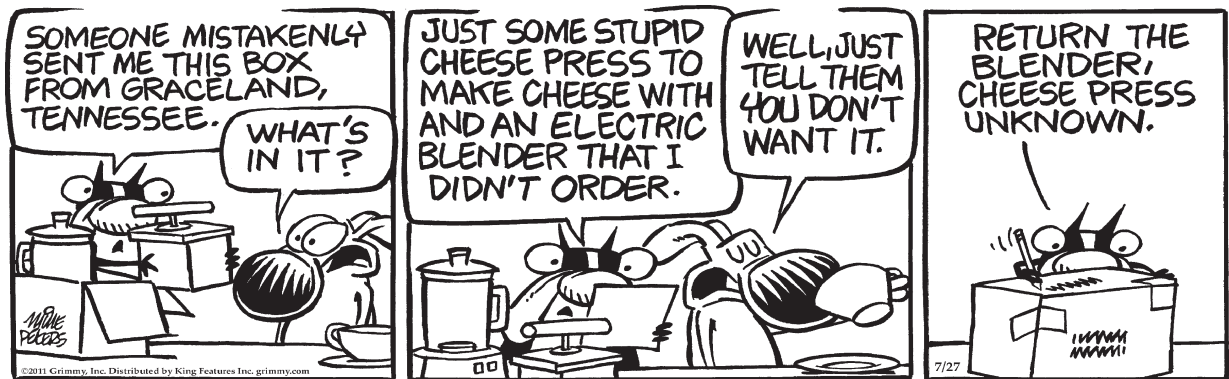
6 Chix



Blondie



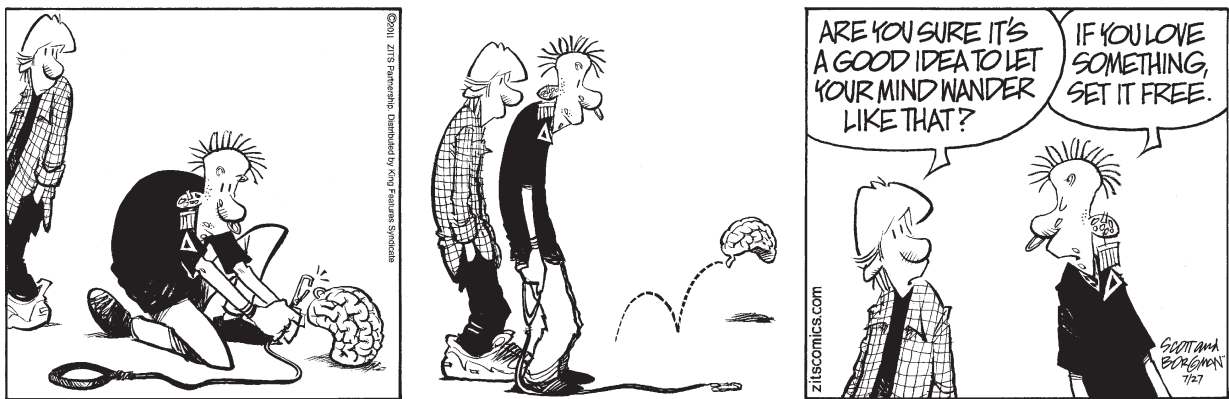
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3	5				9	4	
1				6		3			7
8				5		9			3
5				9		8			2
		1	8	3			6	7	5
				7					9
				8					4
4				1		2			8
		8	3				5	6	

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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7/27

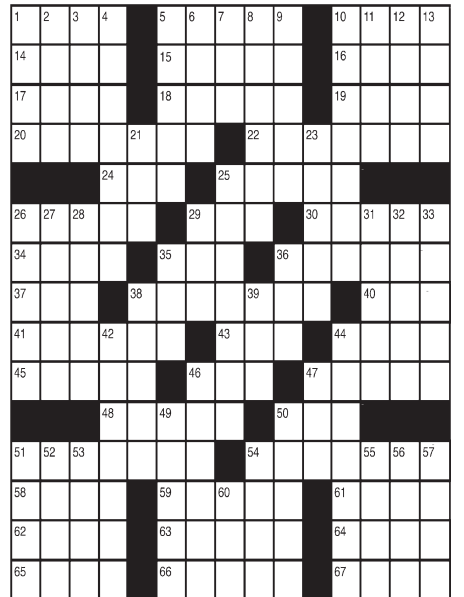
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	6	5	9	4	1	2	7	3
2	1	7	6	5	3	8	4	9
3	4	9	8	7	2	1	5	6
9	5	6	3	8	7	4	1	2
4	2	8	5	1	6	3	9	7
1	7	3	4	2	9	6	8	5
7	9	1	2	6	8	5	3	4
6	3	4	1	9	5	7	2	8
5	8	2	7	3	4	9	6	1

ACROSS

- 1 Flutter about erratically
5 Huge success
10 Barking marine mammal
14 Greek letter
15 __ vaccine; Salk's concern
16 Walk the floor
17 Filled with holy wonder
18 Colo. ski resort
19 Resound
20 Problems for hotheads
22 Attains, as a goal
24 Have debts
25 Lovers' meeting
26 Actor Clark __
29 Two-cup item
30 __ over; faints
34 Employ
35 Singing pair
36 Recluse
37 "Much __ About Nothing"
38 Sled dog
40 Actress Arthur
41 Approached
43 Pigsty
44 Griffey Sr. and Griffey Jr.
45 Inserted
46 Gents
47 Swamp
48 Bravery
50 Aswan, for one
51 Exhausted
54 Knocked over
58 All __; listening
59 Record of a sum spent
61 Verdi opera
62 Highest point
63 B+ or C-, e.g.
64 Cut of pork
65 Not as much
66 Concluded
67 Crawling bugs



7/27/11

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

N	O	S	E	S	P	R	A	Y	P	L	A	N
I	O	T	A	T	R	I	C	E	R	O	M	E
C	Z	A	R	E	I	S	E	N	H	O	W	E
K	E	G	D	A	M	E	A	M	E	N	D	
			G	R	U	M	P	A	S	P		
C	R	E	E	P	Y		T	I	N	T	E	D
H	O	R	S	E		F	A	U	L	T	Y	O
O	M	I	T		B	U	L	B	S		W	E
P	E	N		H	O	S	E	A		E	A	G
O	G	R	E	S		J	A	C	L	Y	N	
			A	A	H		C	O	C	O	A	
L	I	S	Z	T		H	A	S	H		S	P
I	N	C	O	H	E	R	E	N	T		U	S
A	F	A	R		V	I	R	A	L		S	E
R	O	B	S		A	M	B	L	E		A	S

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7/27/11

DOWN

- 1 Italian auto
2 Actor Rob __
3 Knickknack
4 Pollywog
5 Bowler's feat

- 6 Velvety green growth
7 Mont Blanc or the Matterhorn
8 __ Nevada; Mt. Whitney's range
9 Beehive output
10 Ghost
11 Every
12 Prolonged pain
13 Babies born in late July
21 Lamb's mother
23 Requested
25 State police officer
26 Neighbor of Ivory Coast
27 Lent a hand
28 Wide
29 Hobo
31 Glowing coal
32 Claims against property
33 Hidden supply
35 June honoree
36 Egg layer
38 Family car
39 Japan's dollar
42 Edits; corrects
44 Capital of Uganda
46 Up-to-date
47 Traveler's chart
49 Windowsill
50 __ on; adored to excess
51 Pass out cards
52 Speed contest
53 Up in __; irate
54 Laundry soap
55 Roaring beast
56 Blue-pencil
57 Rather and Aykroyd
60 Wicked

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Wk 8 Studio

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\$3,000, Rent \$600
WK 47, 1BR
Sale \$3,500, Rent \$600
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WK 2, \$12,995 2BR Pool
WK 4, \$12,995 2BR Pool

Wk 8 \$9,000 1BR Garden*

Wk 8 \$12,000 2BR Pool*

Wk 9 \$8,500 1BR Garden*

Wk 9 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 10, \$6,500 1BR Garden

Wk 14, \$13,000 2BR Pool*

Wk 24 \$1,860 Studio
Wk 19, 3,15 1BR Garden

Wk 20, \$4,200 1BR Pool
Wk 31 \$1,920 1BR (Even Yr.)

Wk 32 \$7,200 2BR Pool
Wk 38 \$6,600 2BR Pool
Wk 42 \$4,500 1BR Pool
Wk 45 \$11,000 2BR Pool*

Wk 46 \$10,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 47 \$10,000 2BR Pool*
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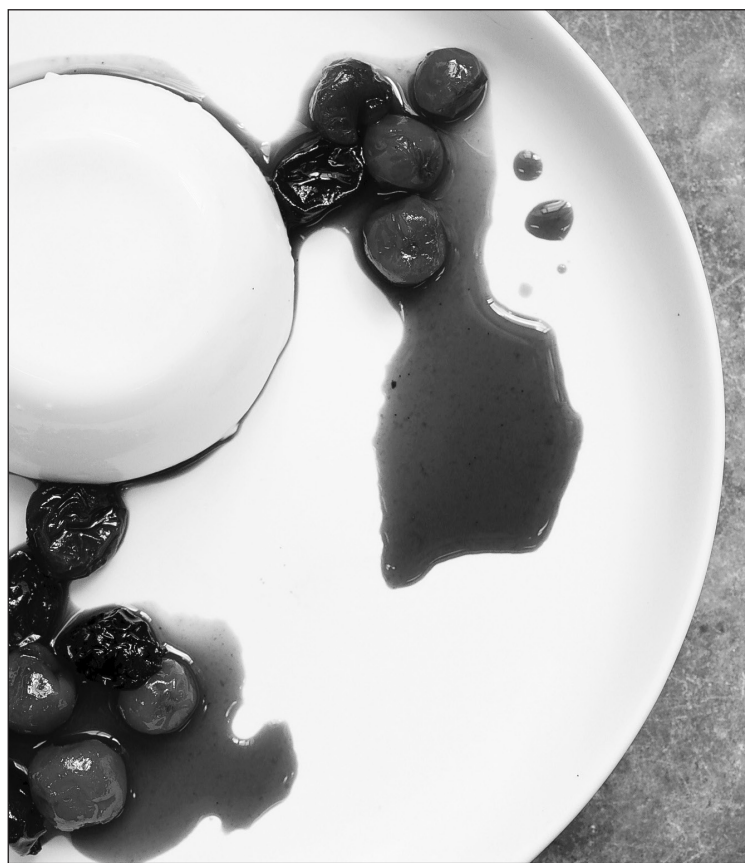
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STOP
Violence Against Women

JULIA MOSKIN

Last week in Chelsea, Mich., as people wilted and vegetables flourished in the intense heat, Anne Elder ran through some of her favorite summer ingredients: pearly garlic "rounds" that flower at the top of the plant in hot weather, the spreading leaves of the broccoli plant, yellow dandelion flowers that she dips whole into batter and deep fries. "When kids visit the farm, we give them cornstalks to chew," she said. Like sugar cane, the stalks contain sweet juice. For Elder, who runs the Community Farm of Ann Arbor, the edible vegetable begins with the sprouts and does not end until the leaves, vines, tubers, shoots and seeds have given their all. If home cooks reconsidered what should go into the pot, and what into the trash, what would they find? What new flavors



(Travis Dove/The New York Times)

a delicious bitterness) and offers a traditional French method of baking fish at high heat on a bed of fennel stalks. Among her favorite neglected greens are the big, sweet leaves that grow around heads of cauliflower – leaves that supermarket shoppers never see and recipes never call for. She cuts them across the ribs, then sautés them with minced onion. “It’s like a silky version of a cabbage leaf, with a hint of cauliflower,” she said. At this time of year, cooks around the country haul home full bags from the farmers’ market or a weekly box from a local farm but also wonder how to make the most of their produce. Eating more vegetables, being spontaneous in the kitchen and celebrating the season are the aspirations that lead people to join CSA’s. But many find that they don’t know what to do with boxloads of melon, tomatoes, onions and leafy greens, not to mention their stalks, tops, peels and stems. “I joined a CSA because I wanted to be frugal and I thought it would force me to be creative in the kitchen,” said Megan Smith, a learning specialist in New York. “But it generated a huge amount of work and all this debris.” Much of what is tossed out is edible, but not everyone greets the opportunity to recycle food scraps as an exciting food adventure. “When you mention using them for stock, that’s when people start to roll their eyes,” said Ronna Welsh, a cooking teacher in New York, who chronicles her adventures with chard stems and watermelon rinds on her website Purple Kale Kitchenworks, in a column called “Otherwise, Trash.” □

pleasureinaruba@hotmail.com

might emerge, what old techniques? Pre-industrial cooks, for whom thrift was a necessity as well as a virtue, once knew many ways to put the entire garden to work. Fried green tomatoes and pickled watermelon rind are examples of dishes that preserved a bumper crop before rot set in. "Some people these days are so unfamiliar with vege-

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'Colombiamoda 2011':

Colombia's Fashion Week heats up the world stage

COLOMBIA – Colombia's fashion week, organized by the 'Instituto Nacional para la Exportación y la Moda, Inexmoda,' (National Institute of Exportation and Fashion), is one of the most important fashion platforms in Latin America. This year, Inexmoda takes place July 26-28 at Plaza Mayor in Medellin, under the motto 'Conciencia Moda' (Fashion Awareness), where designers, investors, consumers and guests will come together to celebrate Colombian fashion.

18 important Colombian designers will showcase their 2012 Spring/Summer collections. The biggest brand names in fashion will be in Colombiamoda 2011. International designers will include the distinguished Italian duet Leitmotiv and the Brazilian-Japanese Akihito Hira.

450 exhibitors are estimated to take part, with more than 1,600 international buyers and possible business opportunities of up to US\$ 80

million.

Pabellon Nuevos Modelos de Negocios (New Business Models Pavilion) is a space that links investors and leading brands under franchise formulas, joint ventures and diverse strategic alliances.

There will be a total of 27 conferences that will take place in the Pabellon del Conocimiento Inexmoda-UPB (Inexmoda-UPB knowledge Pavilion).

In this 22nd annual show, the catwalks of Colombia will be filled with elite Colombian designers, including: Olga Piedrahita, Pepa Pombo by Monica Holguin, Amelia Toro, Maria Luisa Ortiz, Beatriz Camacho, Lina Cantillo, Jorge Duque, Camil Alvarez, Amulette, Agua Bendita, Pink Filosofy and Silvi Alfonso, among others. Academies will be represented by the Young Creators of Chocolyne, the Colegiatura Colombiana and the fashion design program from the Fundacion Universitaria del Area Andina. In addition

to these renowned names, there will be new talent proposals in hand with Fucsia and Infashion magazines, El Tiempo newspaper, and the government's venture program Cultura E. (Alcaldia de Medellin). Commercial fashion will be present in the form of Studio F, Cueros Velez, Magazine El Tesoro, Women Secret and Leonisa, among others.

Italian designers Juan Caro and Fabio Sasso from Leitmotiv will be there to celebrate Colombian fashion; their distinguished association in fashion design will help to place Inexmoda on fashion's world page.

Brazilian-Japanese designer Akihito Hira will also showcase his 2011 Fall- Winter collection.

'Designers by Vogue' is set to return for the 2011 show, which will help budding designers showcase their designs in front of foreign investors. This event will be taking place thanks to the successful alliance between Inex-



A model wears a creation by Colombian University Students of design during the Colombia Moda fashion show in Medellin, Colombia, Tuesday, July 26, 2011.

(AP Photo/Luis Benavides)



Models wear creations by Colombian University Students of design during the Colombia Moda fashion show in Medellin, Colombia, Tuesday, July 26, 2011.

(AP Photo/Luis Benavides)

moda and Vogue. For several months, Inexmoda has been working hand-in-hand with Proexport to offer a suitable and worthy space for these up-and-coming designers.

The forum in charge of the Lab of Inexmoda's fashion will also be present at this show. They will showcase the four sartorial moods of the 2012 Fall-Winter season, in addition to displaying some of the exhibitors' finished products and answering guest questions.

Thanks to Medellin City Hall and Proexport, Colombiamoda will continue positioning itself as Colombia's ultimate fashion week and the most important business event in the country's fashion industry. This is in addition to it being named as the Latin-American event with the highest number of international fashion buyers. Through an alliance with the Pontificia Bolivariana University, UPB, Colombiamoda will have the Pabellon del Conocimiento (the Knowledge Pavilion) academic space, which will play host to 27 conferences of fashion analysts and experts, who are excited to explore this year's topic: Fashion Awareness. □

In Braff's 'All New People,' connections amid one-liners

CHARLES ISHERWOOD
© 2011 New York Times

NEW YORK — If you're contemplating suicide by hanging, keep in mind that it's sensible to have that last cigarette before stepping onto the chair. That's the little, um, life lesson enacted with bleak comic panache in the opening moments of "All New People," a slick and slight but lively new comedy by Zach Braff at the Second Stage Theater. Braff, an actor who wrote, directed and starred in the indie movie "Garden State," invests this angst-fueled comedy with a perky sensibility that draws heavily on the relentless rhythms familiar from sitcom land, where he toiled successfully for several seasons in the zany-doctors series "Scrubs." The jokes, some emerging smartly from character and others simply slapped on for the fun of it, come thick and fast, and are delivered with the precision of ace dart throwers by a cast of four personable actors. "All New People" may be seriously contrived in its mechanical assemblage of characters brought together for a day of drinking, drugging and, eventually, needlepoint-worthy lessons in learning to connect, but it's consistently and sometimes sensation-ally funny. The grim scene on which the lights come up finds

the young, bearded and glum-looking Charlie (Justin Bartha, of "The Hangover" fame) ready to say "Good-bye, cruel world" in an up-scale Jersey Shore house. His exit is rudely interrupted by the flustered arrival of Emma (Krysten Ritter), a daffy young Englishwoman

pect of her much-needed potential clients happening upon this macabre tableau. But she feels she should stick around, seeing her arrival as a sign from the Almighty that she is an agent of salvation for Charlie. She phones her friend Myron (David Wilson

mouth, Charlie defiantly explains what brought him to such a ghastly pass: "I killed six people," he announces. This sends a frisson of fear into Emma, but since she's high on pot and determined to get higher, she insists on sticking around to cheer him up. Charlie,

quartet of animated characters onstage, Braff more or less puts the play on joke-fueled autopilot. Charlie demands with increasing exasperation that all of them go; they vow to stay to keep him from lapsing back into a funk.

To pass the time they exchange volleys of gags inspired by Emma's quest for drugs and a green card (not necessarily in that order); the gritty details of Kim's profession ("A lot of the guys that I have to sleep with look like Larry King"); Myron's cheerful irresponsibility (he's the town drug dealer in addition to being the fire chief); and Charlie's overall irritation at their presence.

"All New People" is Braff's first play, and his inexperience is often apparent. A series of filmed interludes, projected onto the screens that slide in front of Alexander Dodge's chi-chi set, are required to fill us in on the back stories of all four characters. (It's a cheat, but it allows for fun cameos by S. Epatha Merkerson, as the principal of a school where Barnes' ex-schoolteacher once worked; Tony Goldwyn as Charlie's friend and Kim's client, Kevin; and Kevin Conway as a dark figure from Emma's past.) When it is not artificial — Emma's destruction of an African sculpture is a lame ploy to generate pratfalls — it is aimless. □



From left: Anna Camp, Justin Bartha and Krysten Ritter in a scene from the play "All New People," at the Second Stage Theater, in New York, June 27, 2011. The play from Zach Braff is a new comedy with smartly timed humor that is poured on thick and fast.

(Sara Krulwich/The New York Times)

who has come to show the property to potential summer renters. (Among the play's smaller contrivances is the notion that anyone would rent out a house stuffed with blue-chip artwork by the likes of Damien Hirst and Frank Stella.) Emma is aghast at the pros-

Barnes), the local fire chief on Long Beach Island, ostensibly to alert him to this potential suicide but, more germanely, so that Braff can usher another character onstage. In a vain attempt to stall the tide of endless chitchat streaming from Emma's

who eventually confesses that the house belongs to his best pal, Kevin, a rich stockbroker, receives yet another unexpected guest in the shapely form of Kim (Anna Camp), a friendly escort hired by Kevin to cheer Charlie up. Having assembled this

Music world mourns the death of Amy Winehouse

JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Wearing dark suits, black dresses and the occasional beehive hairdo, friends and family said goodbye to Amy Winehouse Tuesday with prayers, tears, laughter and song at an emotional funeral ceremony. "Amy was the greatest daughter, family member and friend you could ever have," said her father, Mitch Winehouse, in a section of the eulogy released by a family spokesman. The singer's father, mother and brother were joined by Winehouse's close friends,

band members and celebrities including producer Mark Ronson for the service at Edgwarebury Cemetery in north London. Media personality Kelly Osbourne was one of several women to wear their hair piled beehive-high in an echo of the singer's trademark style. Fans and photographers thronged the lane outside, but the funeral was for several hundred friends and family only. Mitch Winehouse told mourners that his late daughter had recently found love and had beaten her drug dependency three years before her

death, but he admitted she was still struggling to control her drinking after several weeks of abstinence. "She said, 'Dad I've had enough of drinking, I can't stand the look on your and the family's faces anymore.'" Mitch Winehouse said. He said Amy had been playing her drums and singing in the home the night before her death. "But knowing she wasn't depressed, knowing she passed away, knowing she passed away happy, it makes us all feel better," he said, adding that he



Singer Dionne Bromfield, goddaughter of Amy Winehouse, center, views tributes outside the late singer's north London home, Tuesday, July 26, 2011. British singer Amy Winehouse's last public appearance came three days before her death, when she briefly joined her goddaughter, singer Dionne Bromfield, on stage at The Roundhouse in Camden.

(AP Photo)

hopes to set up an Amy Winehouse Foundation that would help people beat substance abuse. □

Congress in the lead



DAVID BROOKS

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Some of us like to think big. We thought at the beginning of this debt crisis mess that it might be possible to reach a Grand Bargain. This deal would make a serious dent in the country's awful debt problem. It would begin to reform entitlements. It would involve enough revenue to forestall ruinous cuts in domestic programs. The Grand Bargain would yield obvious political benefits. President Barack Obama would show independents that he could move to the center. Republicans would be able to brag about a big reduction in the size of government. Alas, the dream of a Grand Bargain died Friday evening for three reasons.

First, it was always going to be difficult to round up the necessary congressional votes. Republicans didn't want the tax increases. Democrats didn't want the entitlement cuts.

Second, the White House negotiating process was inadequate. Neither the president nor the House speaker ever wrote down and released their negotiating positions. Everything was mysterious, shifting and slippery. One day the president was agreeing to an \$800 billion revenue increase; the next day he was asking for \$400 billion more. Spending cuts that seemed to be part of the package suddenly seemed hollow. Negotiating partners disappeared.

It was phenomenally hard to figure out exactly who was offering what. Democrats in Congress were kept in the dark and were understandably suspicious. It was all a recipe for misunderstandings, hurt feelings and collapse. Third, the president lost his cool. Obama never should have gone in front of the cameras just minutes after the talks faltered Friday evening. His appearance was suffused with that "I'm the only mature person in Washington" condescension that drives everybody else crazy. Obama lectured the leaders of the House and Senate in the sort of patronizing tone that a junior high principal might use with immature delinquents. He talked about unreturned phone calls and being left at the altar, personalizing the issue like a spurned prom date.

Obama's Friday appearance had a gigantic unintended consequence. It brought members of Congress together. They decided to take control. The White House is now on the sidelines. Democratic and Republican

congressional leaders are negotiating directly with one another. The atmosphere has changed. It now seems more likely that we will get a deal. It just won't be as significant as we Grand Bargainers originally wanted.

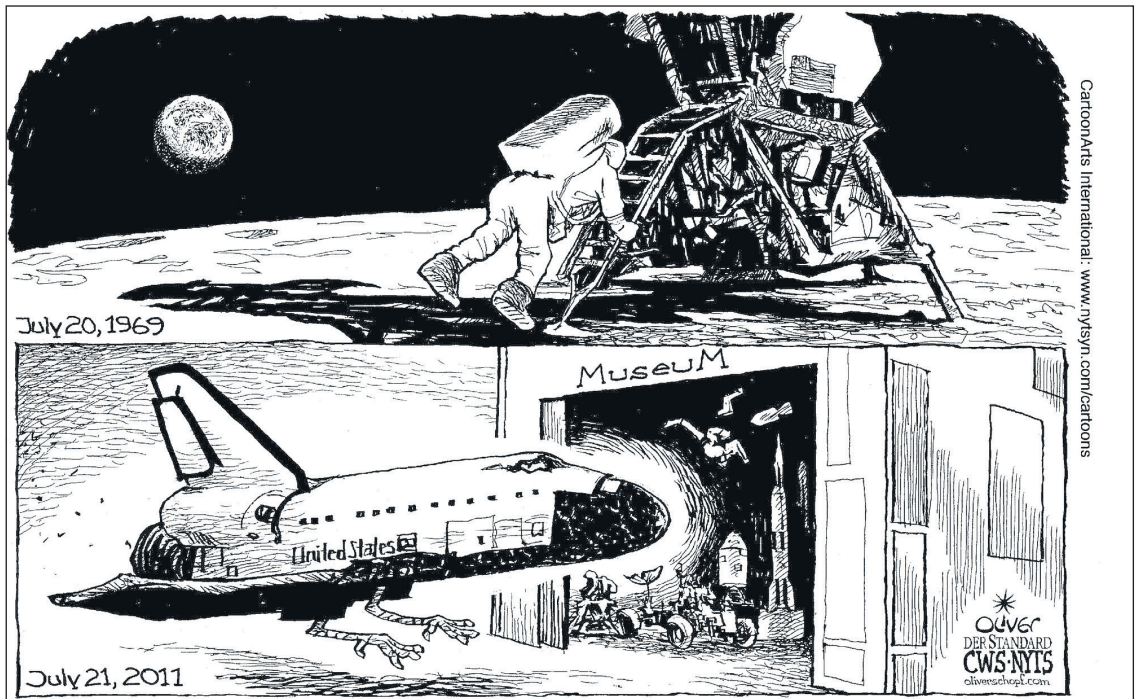
John Boehner and Harry Reid will continue to verbally abuse each other. But there's a script to their taunts. Nobody's feelings are hurt. The old pros are perfectly capable of exchanging cliched volleys in the morning and then going off and negotiating with each other in the afternoon. Furthermore, the negotiating process has changed. On Monday, both Boehner and Reid produced proposals. The main points were written down and available for all to see. Each side not only represented its own views, it sent signals about where future agreements could be found.

Boehner released a plan that involved statutory spending caps with an enforcement mechanism to make sure the cuts are real. Reid released a plan involving bigger long-term spending cuts, with much of the heavy lifting done by a bipartisan select committee. These two carefully coordinated plans are different, but they naturally fit together.

With a little imagination, it's easy to see how they could be merged to give everybody something. Republicans would get some guaranteed spending reductions. Democrats in swing states could campaign on a nominal multitrillion-dollar debt reduction while protecting entitlements. Republicans wouldn't have to vote on raising the debt ceiling until after some guaranteed spending cuts. Democrats could count the reduced Iraq and Afghanistan wars costs as part of the spending reductions. It's not clear if an arrangement would really push the next debt ceiling fight until after the 2012 election, but even that could presumably be fudged, especially if Democrats were willing to give the Republicans broader spending cuts and a balanced-budget amendment vote in the Senate. On the one hand, there has been an outbreak of sanity since Congress took control. On the other hand, the deal they are working on doesn't come close to cutting the \$4 trillion or so many say would be required to prevent a downgrade of the U.S. debt.

This should be a humbling moment for the White House, and maybe a learning experience. There are other people who have been around Washington a long time. They know how to play this game. As a result of their efforts, we may see some debt reduction but nothing big and transformational. Obama won't get his centrist election boost. Republicans won't have to wrestle with tax increases. Democrats won't have to wrestle with entitlement reform.

The Old Guard wins. Obama's televised campaign speech Monday night was behind the times. The action has moved to Capitol Hill. □



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PAUL KRUGMAN

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At the time of writing, President Barack Obama's hoped-for "Grand Bargain" with Republicans is apparently dead. And I say good riddance. I'm no more eager than other rational people (a category that fails to include many congressional Republicans) to see what happens if the debt limit isn't raised. But what the president was offering to the GOP, especially on Medicare, was a very bad deal for America.

Specifically, according to many reports, the president offered both means-testing of Medicare benefits and a rise in the age of Medicare eligibility. The first would be bad policy; the second would be terrible policy. And it would almost surely be terrible politics, too.

The crucial thing to remember, when we talk about Medicare, is that our goal isn't, or at least shouldn't be, defined in terms of some arbitrary number. Our goal should be, instead, to give Americans the health care they need at a price the country can afford. And throwing Americans in their mid-60s off Medicare moves us away from that goal, not toward it.

For Medicare, with all its flaws, works better than private insurance. It has less bureaucracy and, hence, lower administrative costs than private insurers. It has been more successful in controlling costs. While Medicare expenses per beneficiary have soared over the past 40 years, they've risen significantly

Messing with Medicare

less than private insurance premiums. And since Medicare-type systems in other advanced countries have much lower costs than the uniquely privatized U.S. system, there's good reason to believe that Medicare reform can do a lot to control costs in the future.

In that case, you may ask, why didn't the 2010 health care reform simply extend Medicare to cover everyone? The answer, of course, is political realism. Most health reformers I know would have supported Medicare for all if they had considered it politically feasible. But given the power of the insurance lobby and the knee-jerk opposition of many politicians to any expansion of government, they settled for what they thought they could actually get: near-universal coverage through a system of regulation and subsidies.

It is, however, one thing to accept a second-best system insuring those who currently lack coverage.

Throwing millions of Americans off Medicare and pushing them into the arms of private insurers is another story.

Also, did I mention that Republicans are doing all they can to undermine health care reform — they even tried to undermine it as part of the debt negotiations — and may eventually succeed? If they do, many of those losing Medicare coverage would find themselves unable to replace it. So raising the Medicare age is a terrible idea. Means-testing — reducing benefits for wealthier Americans — isn't equally bad, but it's still poor policy.

It's true that Medicare expenses could be reduced by requiring high-income Americans to pay higher premiums, higher co-payments, etc. But why not simply raise taxes on high incomes instead? This would have the great virtue of not adding another layer of bureaucracy by requiring that Medicare estab-

lish financial status before paying medical bills.

But, you may say, raising taxes would reduce incentives to work and create wealth. Well, so would means-testing: As conservative economists love to point out in other contexts — for example, when criticizing programs like food stamps — benefits that fall as your income rises in effect raise your marginal tax rate. It doesn't matter whether the government raises your taxes by \$1,000 when your income rises or cuts your benefits by the same amount; either way, it reduces the fraction of your additional earnings that you get to keep.

So what's the difference between means-testing Medicare and raising taxes? Well, the truly rich would prefer means-testing, since they would end up sacrificing no more than the merely well-off. But everyone else should prefer a tax-based solution.

So why is the president embracing these bad policy ideas? In a forthcoming article in The New York Review of Books, the veteran journalist Elizabeth Drew suggests that members of the White House political team saw the 2010 election as a referendum on government spending and that they believe that cutting spending is the way to win next year.

If so, I would respectfully suggest that they are out of their minds. Remember death panels? The GOP's most potent political weapon last year — the weapon that caused a large swing in the votes of older Americans — was the claim that Obama was cutting Medicare. Why give Republicans a chance to do it all over again?

Of course, it's possible that the reason the president is offering to undermine Medicare is that he genuinely believes that this would be a good idea. And that possibility, I have to say, is what really scares me. □





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